BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO.148 BENGALURU | TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 22 | PRICE ₹5**

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

23-time Grand Slam singles champion Serena Williams gets **Wimbledon's final wildcard**, setting up a remarkable return. This will be her first singles appearance since retiring after 2022 US Open, **P 16**

Moscow shoots down dozens of drones Monday, days after a repeated Ukrainian strike on the city's oil refinery, while **Russian attacks in Ukraine killed at least six people**, including a boy and his father, **INSIDE JKT**

A South Korean court sentences **former justice minister Park Sung-jae to 25 years in prison** for his role in ex-president Yoon Suk Yeol's brief and disastrous declaration of martial law in Dec 2024

India's men's hockey team led by Harmanpreet Singh **face arch-rivals Pakistan in their opening match of the London leg of FIH Pro League** today. It will be their first meeting since India's 2-1 Asian Champions Trophy win in 2024

15 killed, all in their 20s, in fire at gaming studio in Lucknow bldg

AC Short Circuit In Vet's Clinic Suspected

Pathikrit Chakraborty & Anjanaya Singh | TNN

Lucknow: At least 15 people, most of them student trainees and staff of a gaming and animation studio, were killed and nine others were injured Monday afternoon in a fire that tore through a three-storey commercial building in Lucknow's Aliganj after a suspected AC short circuit in a pet store and clinic on the ground floor.

Initial reports said a coaching centre was engulfed in the flames. Social media posts also erroneously referred to a coaching centre.

The victims, all in their 20s, were among 22 people brought out by rescue teams from soot-laced rooms and toilets inside which they had apparently locked themselves to escape the fast-spreading flames.

Preliminary forensic findings suggest "highly combustible material" stored in the building fed the flames, fire department sources said.

Thick smoke billowing from upper floors was visible from 2km away. A sanitation worker identified as Marzena was the first to raise an alarm around 2.30pm. The building turned into an inferno in minutes, sealing all escape routes, sources said.

First responders described seeing some survivors smashing windowpanes and using a rope to rappel down to safety. "A few jumped from the first and second floors," a police officer said, quoting a witness. Dr Prem Raj Singh, chief medical superintendent of KGMU, said three of the seven people admitted to the trauma centre were in critical condition.

▶Rs 2L ex-gratia, P 7

BLAZE CLAIMS OVER SIX PETS

Firefighters recover a body after boring a hole in the wall of building that caught fire in Lucknow around 2.30pm on Monday

- Building **housed pet clinic, library, learning space, gaming studio**
- Most **victims aged 22-27** were interns or staff at gaming studio
- Several **students broke windows, used rope to escape** from upper floor; 22 unconscious people pulled out
- 6+ **pets killed** at veterinary clinic
- A sweeper was first to spot blaze, raise alarm; firefighting was **on for 2 hrs**

4 arrested, 4 officials suspended, probe report in 7 days

Lucknow police on Monday arrested three people and registered an FIR against six and other unidentified persons in connection with the Aliganj fire. The FIR pertains to alleged negligence and violations linked to the fire. Police sources said the probe is focusing on possible violations of fire safety regulations, building norms and occupancy permissions. Officials said more arrests can't be ruled out. TNN

InCREDible: Bengaluru's Kunal Shah is now head of WhatsApp globally

1st Indian Startup Entrepreneur To Get Top Job At Big Tech

Supriya Roy & Aabhas Sharma | TNN

Mumbai/New Delhi: Meta Platforms has named Cred founder Kunal Shah as the new global head of WhatsApp, elevating one of India's best-known startup entrepreneurs to a top leadership role at the Facebook parent.

The 47-year-old entrepreneur, a philosophy graduate who later dropped out of an MBA programme, will succeed Will Cathcart, who has led WhatsApp since 2019. The move takes Shah from Bengaluru, where he built a business around rewarding users for paying their credit card bills on time, to Meta headquarters in California. He becomes the first Indian startup founder to be hired as the CEO of a global tech platform.

Meta is also investing $900 million (about Rs 8,550 crore) in Cred through a mix of primary and secondary share purchases, valuing the fintech company at $4.5 billion, up from $3.5 billion in its previous funding round in 2025.

The social media giant will own about 20% of Cred, though the firm said Meta will remain a minority investor and will not have access to member data. Shah will step away from day-to-day operations at Cred but remain a shareholder. Miten Sampat, who has led strategy and finance at Cred since 2020, will take over as interim chief executive.

The appointment comes as Meta doubles down on India, WhatsApp's biggest market with more than 600 million users, and steps up efforts to monetise the messaging platform through payments, business messaging and artificial intelligence. Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said Shah "brings the kind of builder mentality and global perspective that will serve him well in running the world's biggest messaging app".

Shah said he "started Cred in 2018 with a belief that creditworthiness deserves to be rewarded," adding that he was stepping back "with gratitude" and confidence in the team. Shah, who had founded FreeCharge in 2010, exited it five years later, selling it at $450 million. He then set up Cred with $1million of his own money. Sampat said Cred had a "generational opportunity" to build on that foundation as the company prepares for an eventual listing.

Meta has been expanding WhatsApp's role in India beyond messaging, adding UPI payments, metro ticketing, bill payments, and mobile recharges. WhatsApp Pay has gathered pace after the removal of user-onboarding restrictions. But it remains far behind PhonePe and Google Pay, which together account for nearly 79% of UPI transactions. Business messaging has emerged as an important growth engine for Meta.

▶Cred eyes IPO, P 13

META-MORPHOSIS OF A FOUNDER

- Born in 1979, **studied Philosophy** at Mumbai's Wilson College and briefly enrolled in a part-time MBA at NMIMS before **dropping out to pursue entrepreneurship**
- Launched **PaisaBack in 2009**, co-founded digital payments platform **FreeCharge in 2010**. In **2015**, FreeCharge was **acquired by Snapdeal** for about **₹2,800 crore**
- Founded Cred in 2018
- Prolific angel investor, said to have made investments in **over 200 startups**, including Razorpay, Unacademy and BharatPe

1st monsoon spell hits over 14k people across 5 Assam dists

More than 14,600 people, including 3,314 children, across five districts remain affected on Monday, with Assam grappling with the first wave of floods this monsoon season. Dhemaji emerged as the worst affected district, with inundation reported from multiple locations. The floods submerged 2,485 hectares of crop land across the state. Lakhimpur recorded the highest crop loss at 1,293 hectares, followed by Dhemaji with 1,156 hectares. In Jorhat, a four-hour heavy rainfall spell on Monday morning inundated several parts of the town, leaving prominent areas waterlogged. TNN

TN gas leak toll now reaches 8, 70 hospitalised

The death toll in Sunday's ammonia gas leak at a private seafood processing unit in TN's Tiruvallur district has reached seven, while 68 workers are under treatment in various hospitals. All the deceased were women. The affected include workers from several states; Odisha accounts for maximum victims at 29, followed by Assam (20) and Jharkhand (8). **P 6**

Sniffer dog solves minor's rape case

Mary, a seven-year-old Labrador with UP's Sambhal police, helped trace the man accused of sexually assaulting a six-year-old girl. A scarf recovered from spot led Mary to the accused, police said. **P 5**

Day 3: CMs talk over gurdwara standoff

Punjab CM urged U'khand CM for an amicable resolution on the third day of standoff at a Rudraprayag gurdwara. At least 4 Nihang Sikhs were locked in, demanding release of 4 others held over a parking row. **P 5**

Gujral fraud: Mule a/c holder held

A 40-year-old man has been arrested over the alleged Rs 7.8-crore cyber fraud involving former MP Naresh Gujral. Navneet, from Punjab, had allegedly provided his account to the scammers for transfer of funds. TNN

No relief for doc over Nandini milk reels

Karnataka HC refused to halt proceedings in connection with an FIR registered against a Bengaluru doctor for posting social media reels, claiming that Nandini strawberry-flavoured milk was spurious. **P 3**

12 Indians among 13 killed in Qatar gas plant blast; accident, says min

Doha: Twelve Indians were among the 13 people killed in an explosion at a gas processing plant in the Ras Laffan Industrial City in Qatar, officials said on Monday.

"Qatari authorities have confirmed that 12 Indian nationals have unfortunately passed away in the Ras Laffan incident yesterday night," the Indian Embassy in Doha said in a post on X.

▶4 India-bound fertiliser ships cross Hormuz, P 6

The Gulf state's energy minister Saad al-Kaabi said that 66 people who have been reported injured are receiving medical treatment, none of whom are in life-threatening condition.

Authorities are investigating the cause of the incident, which the energy minister said was "an accident and not sabotage or hostile in nature", after Iranian attacks targeted energy facilities in the Gulf during the war.

Earlier, the interior ministry had said a "technical incident" caused the explosion late on Sunday in the Gulf emirate's Ras Laffan industrial zone.

Qatar's state-owned energy company, QatarEnergy, said the blast occurred "during the start-up of operations at Ras Laffan Industrial City, which resulted in an explosion and fire at Barzan gas supply facility".

Ras Laffan had already been badly damaged in the US-Iran war as Iranian strikes targeted Gulf energy infrastructure and forced Qatar to halt gas production.

The Indian embassy said it is in constant touch with Qatari authorities and will render all help to the families of those who have lost their lives or have been injured.

The blast reverberated across Doha, and was heard at least 64 km away. AGENCIES

▶See INSIDE JACKET

Photo: AFP

US suspends curbs on Iranian oil till Aug 21

The US said Monday it is temporarily lifting sanctions on Iran to allow the Islamic Republic to produce, sell and deliver crude oil and related products through Aug 21.

Treasury secretary Scott Bessent cited Tehran's commitment in ongoing negotiations to "free and open transit" in the Strait of Hormuz and permission for IAEA inspectors to enter their country as a reason for pausing the sanctions. **INSIDE JACKET**

'Six Tigers with me': UBT rebel MPs join Shinde

Six rebel Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs formally joined the Dy CM Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena on Monday, making their crossing over official after more than a week of drama and speculation. At a show of strength at the Y B Chavan Centre, Shinde said, "Not one but six tigers are present with me, and all six are Dhurandhars," Shinde said. UBT Sena now has just 3 Lok Sabha MPs, while the Shinde camp grows to 13 LS MPs. **P 6**

Rel ADAG probe: Top ex-execs of RCFL, RHFL held

CBI has arrested Devang Mody, former director and CEO of Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd (RCFL), and Ravindra Sudhalkar, former executive director and CEO of Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL), as part of its probe into the Reliance ADAG cases.

CBI said RCFL's actions allegedly caused a loss of Rs 4,097 crore to 13 public sector banks, while RHFL allegedly caused a loss of Rs 3,526 crore to 10 PSBs. **P 5**

Under pressure, Starmer quits as PM; sixth Prexit in UK in 10 years

Naomi Canton

London: UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer nearly broke down as he found himself on the scrapheap of history on Monday when — like Theresa May, Boris Johnson and Liz Truss before him — he was booted out of No. 10 by his own MPs. He is the sixth PM to make an early exit in the past 10 years.

After just two years in the job, having watched his authority within his party vanish following Andy Burnham's resounding victory in the Makerfield byelection, the lectern came out in front of No. 10 Downing Street and Starmer delivered his resignation speech, despite insisting earlier he wouldn't resign.

Reform UK chief Nigel Farage immediately called for a general election.

After a weekend of reflection at Chequers, on Monday, in front of No. 10 staff and hordes of press, Starmer said he was aware his party did not think he was best placed to lead Labour into the next general election. "I accept that answer with good grace," he said, explaining he had already told the King he was resigning. Nominations for the Labour leadership contest will open July 9 and be completed by July 16.

▶See GLOBAL: INSIDE JACKET

Getty Images

British PM Keir Starmer and wife Victoria outside 10 Downing St after he announced his resignation

Bypoll win to No. 10? Labour veteran Burnham on fast track

Fresh from his by-election victory last week, Labour veteran Andy Burnham took another step Monday towards his long-held dream of moving into No. 10 Downing Street. The newly elected Makerfield MP could be installed as PM in just over three weeks after would-be rival Wes Streeting said he was backing the ex-Manchester mayor for PM. "I will put myself forward as part of this process," Burnham wrote on X after Starmer's speech. **Inside Jkt**

Pollution control papers may be valid for 3 years for new vehicles

New Delhi: Owners of BS-VI private vehicles, up to six years old, will not need to renew Pollution Under Control Certificates every year, as govt is planning to extend their validity period to three years, **reports Dipak Dash.** However, BS-VI vehicles aged between six and 10 years will be required to renew their PUCC annually and those above 10 years every six months.

The move is intended to reduce burden on owners, considering that BS-VI vehicles are significantly cleaner than their predecessors. BS-VI vehicles emit up to 82% less particulate matter (PM) and 25% less nitrogen oxides (NOx) than BS-IV vehicles.

▶PUCC renewal, P 5

SC: Collegium's selection process is not open to judicial scrutiny, RTI

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday emphatically said the selection of judges of Constitutional courts by the high court and Supreme Court collegiums is beyond the pale of judicial scrutiny and does not come under the ambit of Right to Information (RTI) Act, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.**

A partial working day bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi declined to entertain a writ petition by senior Himachal judicial officer Arvind Malhotra, who alleged the HC collegium failed to comply with an SC order mandating consideration of his candidature for elevation to HC.

"We do not want to open a Pandora's box. We will not interfere in the collegium decisions," the bench said, indicating hundreds of candidates are called for interaction prior to selecting a few and recommending their names.

▶'Decision based', P 10

IN THE COURTS

- Why are you coming in the way of a child's future, SC asks CARA over **aunt's battle to take adopted niece to US** | **P 9**
- **Personal liberty cannot override broader interests of society**, says Bombay HC's Nagpur bench, denying bail to murder accused | **P 9**
- **Woman, 26, sentenced to 10-yr RI** for kidnapping a 17-year-old girl and sexually assaulting her in 2017 | **P 5**
- Allahabad HC **refuses to hear out-of-turn plea** seeking probe into recent **Ram temple offerings** controversy | **P 9**

NMC to end PG diploma courses, shift seats to MD/MS programmes

New Delhi: The National Medical Commission (NMC) will end admissions to PG diploma courses after 2026-27 academic year and convert existing seats into MD/MS programmes, aiming to bring all specialist medical training under a single degree framework, **reports Anuja Jaiswal.**

NMC on Monday directed all medical colleges and institutions offering PG diploma courses to apply for conversion of these seats into corresponding MD/MS seats through the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB).

The move is expected to affect diploma seats across specialties such as child health, obstetrics and gynaecology, anaesthesia, ophthalmology, psychiatry and public health currently offered by medical colleges. According to NMC, several institutions currently run both diploma and degree programmes in the same specialty, while others offer only diploma courses despite having the infrastructure, faculty and clinical material required for degree programmes.

▶No new seats, P 8

STANDARDISING PG

- Regulator says converting diploma seats to MD/MS will **standardise PG training**
- **Diploma holders face limited growth**, with fewer promotions and ineligibility for teaching roles
- Diplomas **have lost relevance**, degree-qualified specialists now staff district facilities, says regulator

NEET NUGGETS

- At NTA's Okhla HQ, around **250 observers, with the help of AI tools, watched NEET exam rooms**, tracked biometric verification and responded to alerts from a network spanning 551 cities and 14 overseas locations
- A major **impersonation racket** allegedly operating during the NEET retest was busted in Bihar's Lakhisarai with the **arrest of 30 people, including MBBS students**, biometric staff and others accused of facilitating dummy candidates at examination centres
- Assam orders **probe against 2 cops** over allegations that a Brahmin student was **compelled to remove his sacred thread** during frisking at NEET centre
- Indore police special probe team **arrests a first-year law student** for running an online scam that allegedly defrauded medical aspirants by **promising to sell leaked NEET papers** **P 6**

B'luru woman with spl needs gets HC nod for hysterectomy

It Will Preserve Her Dignity: Court

Vasantha.Kumar @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Karnataka high court has permitted a Bengaluru-based couple to proceed with a total hysterectomy for their 23-year-old daughter, who has severe developmental and intellectual disabilities, ruling that it would be in her best interest and preserve her dignity.

The parents informed the court that their daughter's condition significantly impairs her ability to understand, manage, or perform even basic daily activities. They submitted medical records, including reports from the Denver Developmental Screening Test, which indicated substantial developmental delays and social adaptive deficiencies.

▶Monitor recovery, P 3

WELFARE FIRST

- Patient suffers from **severe disabilities that are irreversible**, says medical board
- Parents tell court that their daughter **cannot manage basic activities or maintain menstrual hygiene**
- Hearing their plea, court says **patient's welfare & dignity of paramount importance**

KBG gives B-Smile 6 months to finish 62km road whitetopping

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Bengaluru development minister Krishna Byre Gowda Monday set a six-month deadline for completion of whitetopping projects across Bengaluru, while calling elevated roads and tunnel corridors 'essential components' of the city's future mobility network. Of the 120km white-topping work taken up after Cong took office in 2023, 58km has been completed till now. He directed officials to complete the rest by year-end.

Reviewing road infrastructure works undertaken by Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure (B-Smile), the minister questioned delays in execution, particularly when there are no major payment-related issues affecting contractors. "We should push officers to get the work done and ensure there's no delay," he said.

"If you knew a flyover would come, why did you take up whitetopping of the road? So that you can cut it open, waste public money and then build an elevated road on top of it?" KBG asked B-Smile officials, including director (technical) BS Prahlad, while asking them to be more mindful while executing such projects.

▶ Elevated roads, P 2

'Why do whitetopping if flyover is planned?'

If you knew a flyover would come, why did you take up whitetopping of the road?... Due to a lack of application of mind, let us not waste money
—Krishna Byre Gowda asks B-Smile officials

ON TUNNEL ROAD

- **Tender process for 16.4km north-south tunnel corridor completed**; final decision to be placed before cabinet soon
- The proposed **21.8-km east-west tunnel connecting Old Madras Road and Mysore Road** will enter the tendering stage shortly

Iran goalie new Hormuz: Nothing goes through!

I learned that the ball never comes when you expect it to." Albert Camus owes a lot of his philosophies on life to standing between the goalposts of the Algiers University Racing team. At this World Cup, goalkeepers are turning the Nobel laureate's musing on its head, **reports Vishal Menon.**

Iran's keeper of faith, Alireza Beiranvand for example. After holding out against the Belgian onslaught under the LA sun that would wilt the best of men, knowing exactly when and how the ball would arrive, the 33-year-old from a nomadic sheep-herding family is the Wall from Lorestan, and the goalmouth he guards is now the Strait of Alireza.

Social media is in a tizzy. "We didn't win against Iran but at least it didn't cost us $300bn," a Belgian post went.

▶Keeper of faith, P 15

With Goal No. 18, Messi In Club Of 1

Getty Images

Messi became WC's all-time leading scorer, **netting his 17th & 18th goals** vs Austria | **P 15**

Bangalore Times

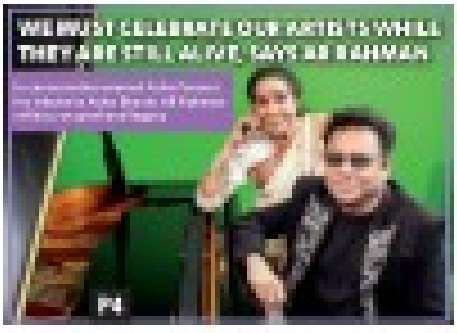
RADHIKA DHIVEDI

'There's a very thin line between glamour and vulgarity'

Protester disrupts Diljit Dosanjh's San Francisco concert

Buzzstop

MAYOR CALLS FOR CANCELLATION OF KANYE'S JULY 4TH CONCERT



WE MUST CELEBRATE OUR ARTISTS WHILE THEY ARE STILL ALIVE, SAYS AR RAHMAN

P4

SHWETHA MENON RESIGNS AS AMMA PRESIDENT:

'I am not ready to be a puppet'

Changes against Shwetha's team

A woman at the helm, but no real power

POV

Why Has K'taka Not WALKED THE TALK?

Years before the apex court recognised safe walking as a fundamental right, Karnataka drafted a Bill promising safer streets, annual audits, protected funding and pedestrian-first planning. The Bill has, however, spent four years gathering dust on the roadside

Chethan Kumar & Sanjay Murty | TNN

Pics: AI

More than four years before the Supreme Court observed that safe walking is part of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 21 and 19(1)(d), Karnataka had prepared a draft active mobility Bill in Dec 2021.

The Bill, drafted by Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), stated: "Individuals shall have the right to complete and connected streets and the right to access any place in an urban area by walk or by cycle."

While the SC, in its June 19 ruling, called for a dedicated law to protect pedestrians, Karnataka has been sitting on its draft Bill for years.

The draft, in 17 chapters and 55 sections, seeks to make safe walking and cycling statutory obligations.

Besides making recommendations, the draft prescribes timelines and accountability.

Municipal corporations must prepare comprehensive mobility plans within two years. Urban local bodies must conduct annual infrastructure audits and regular walking inspections, with physical and digital records maintained. These are specifically required to identify issues faced by women, children, senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

Addressing grievances

Chapter 15 has the strongest provision. It gives pedestrian and cycling infrastructure "first charge" on municipal funds — the kind of protection that matters when budgets get squeezed. The Bill creates grievance-redressal systems and empowers authorities to levy fines of up to Rs 1 lakh, rising to Rs 2 lakh for repeat violations. Even govt departments can be held liable.

The top court has provided the constitutional backing needed at this point. Karnataka already has the legislative blueprint. The missing piece appears to be political urgency. Any delay means pedestrians are forced off broken pavements, onto carriageways and into harm's way.

DULT commissioner P Manivannan, who has now been given additional charge of the agency, told **TOI** he will "look into the Bill" in the coming week.

WE NEED: WALKING CLUSTERS, INFRA STUDY

"The govt must table the Bill on priority and follow the TenderSURE model for its implementation. Start small, and create walking clusters in neighbourhoods across Bengaluru. If we do this in 12-15 locations, every part of Bengaluru will have at least one walkable cluster. It can be completed within 22 months and will cost far less than building elevated roads. Pedestrians should get priority over vehicles
— Ashwin Mahesh | URBAN PLANNING EXPERT

"GBA has involved Sensing Local in assessing roads and footpaths. The mapping exercise for Central and South is nearly complete. We should have a good idea about the entire city in a month. While a GIS-based road infrastructure management system is being designed to improve planning and maintenance... we must map footpaths, bus stops, flyovers, underpasses and other infrastructure so that we can track roadworks, flooding, defect-liability periods and maintenance through an automated system
— Sobia Rafiq | URBAN PLANNER FROM SENSING LOCAL

"The key issue with walkability is not lack of footpaths, but that they aren't walkable because of maintenance issues. Road-maintenance contracts don't include footpaths. Our approach is reactive. Earlier, footpaths and roads were clubbed together in budgets... The draft Bill is excellent. Not having dedicated legislation is not an excuse here
— Arun Pai | PROJECT WALKALURU

FOR SAFER STREETS & FOOTPATHS

- Create new streets with **footpaths and cycle tracks**; do not retrofit
- **Redevelop existing roads** to incorporate walking, cycling infrastructure
- Drivers, by law, must **yield at crossings**; not courtesy expectation
- Streets have to prioritise movement of **people over vehicles**
- **Footpaths** must be continuous, unobstructed, well-lit and accessible
- Must have **kerb ramps, pedestrian-refuge islands,** dedicated signal phases, and traffic-calming measures
- No agency can set up temporary or permanent **structures on footpaths**
- During construction work, **safe detours** must be provided
- Motorists prohibited from **parking on footpaths**
- Treat residential areas, school zones, and hospital zones as **'slow streets'**; speeds capped at 20kmph

CBSE revaluation improves scores, brings relief to kids

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

File photo

TESTING TIMES: The controversy surrounding CBSE results had left many students rattled, triggering protests across the country

Bengaluru: Bringing relief to many class 12 CBSE students, the revaluation results have led to a significant increase in marks for a large number of applicants. Several schools reported that almost all students who sought revaluation saw their scores improve.

In some cases, the increase was substantial. Sarayu Sony, a student of Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir, Bengaluru, gained 21 marks in her English paper after revaluation. "When the original results were announced, I was shocked. After obtaining the photocopy of my answer script, I noticed several gaps in evaluation and instances of unfair marking. Though I had written the points according to the marking scheme, I had been under-awarded. I was therefore quite confident that my marks would improve after revaluation," she said. Her English score has risen from 72 to 93.

"My marks are important for college admissions and the scholarship scheme, as well as for competitive exams in the future," she said.

National Public School, Yeshwantpur, principal Sheeja Manoj said the high achievers of the school have finally received the marks they deserved. "These were all high scorers, whom we knew would have done much better. Three students got centum in English. Others have got close to full marks. It is important that they receive the marks they are eligible for. The maximum difference that has come is 10 marks," she said.

"We have had a student whose mark went up to 93 from 79 in economics. There are others who received centum after revaluation," said Delhi Public School East principal Manila Carvelho.

Her counterpart in the North campus, Manju Balasubramanyam, said the average increase in marks is 7-9 across subjects; the maximum increase is 13-15. "The students who have raised concerns of handwriting mismatch are yet to get the results. All the others who applied received an increase in marks," she said.

CBSE had announced Sunday that it was releasing the results of 87% of the students who had applied for revaluation. This year's the board's results were marred by controversy after physical evaluation was replaced by on-screen marking.

Fresh order issued to apply for power connection sans OC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The govt Monday issued a fresh order expanding the exemption for obtaining permanent electricity connections. The move is expected to benefit lakhs of homeowners across the state who were affected by earlier notifications and eligibility conditions.

Under the revised order, owners of completed residential buildings constructed on plots measuring up to 2,400 sqft, with a permissible deviation of up to 20%, can obtain permanent electricity connections without furnishing an occupancy certificate (OC). The benefit applies to G+3 residential buildings or structures with stilt parking plus four floors, located within the jurisdictions of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), development authorities, municipal corporations, urban local bodies, and gram panchayats.

The exemption is available for buildings completed on or before May 31, 2026. It covers homeowners who had applied for permanent electricity connections before the cut-off date, those who constructed buildings using temporary electricity connections, and those who completed construction without obtaining any electricity connection.

Eligible applicants have been given a 15-day window from June 22 to submit applications for permanent electricity connections under the revised scheme. The clarification follows widespread confusion over an earlier govt order, which was interpreted as restricting the benefit only to those who had applied for permanent power connections before May 31.

15-DAY WINDOW

Contractors protest privatisation move

Members of Karnataka State Association of Licensed Electrical Contractors staged a protest at Freedom Park Monday opposing the proposed privatisation of the state's power distribution network and the move to relax norms for electrical works up to 150 kVA.

Contractors from Bengaluru and various districts participated in the demonstration, demanding that the govt abandon any plans to privatise power distribution. Association president C Ramesh alleged that privatisation could adversely affect consumers, increase electricity tariffs and service charges, and jeopardise welfare schemes such as Gruha Jyothi.

BMTC: No hike in monthly bus pass rate

Bengaluru: BMTC has denied claims that it has increased the price of ordinary bus monthly passes.

In a press release Monday, the corporation stated that the monthly pass for travel in ordinary buses within city limits continues to cost Rs 1,200. It explained that its Rs 1,500 monthly pass includes services operating in the extended area beyond city limits.

According to BMTC, govt has expanded the corporation's operational jurisdiction in phases to meet growing public transport demand. While BMTC was initially permitted to operate up to 20km beyond Bengaluru city limits, the jurisdiction was extended to 25km beyond BBMP limits in 2014.

In Jan 2026, govt expanded the limit to 40km beyond the limits of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). Following the latest expansion, BMTC extended services to neighbouring towns, including Kanakapura, Ramanagara, Channapatna, Magadi, Chikkaballapur, and Malur. The corporation said its service reach has increased from about 40–42km earlier to nearly 65–70km from the city centre.

BMTC currently operates 6,295 schedules on 1,819 routes across its network. Of these, 216 schedules on 96 routes are being operated in the newly extended area.

Officials explained that the Rs 1,500 monthly pass has been introduced to benefit commuters who are using these longer-distance routes and should not be construed as a revision of the existing ordinary bus pass fare. TNN

Driver killed, 4 BEOs injured in highway collision with truck

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The driver of a multi-utility vehicle was killed and four block education officers (BEOs) heading to the city from Mysuru were injured when their vehicle rammed a truck coming from the opposite direction on Bengaluru-Mysuru access-controlled highway near Channapatna Monday morning.

The deceased is Anand M from Mysuru. "The MUV's front tyre exploded near Mudugere junction and the vehicle jumped the median. It collided with the truck heading towards Mysuru. Anand sustained serious injuries and was declared dead at the hospital," a policeman said.

A motorist died around 4.45am Monday when a rashly driven Tempo Traveller hit him on HMT Layout Main Road. Gaurishankar, resident of Majunathnagar, was riding back home from work when the accident took place, Peenya traffic police said.

In another accident near Yelahanka, three students riding a motorcycle sustained injuries after hitting a car that was taking U-turn around 1am Sunday. In the third accident around 8pm Sunday, 32-year-old security guard Kapendra Maje was killed after a water tanker crushed him near Gandhi Circle on Gunjur Main Road, Whitefield.

B'luru needs 150km of elevated rds: Min

▸ Continued from page 1

All projects should be properly mapped to ensure such cutting of roads does not happen again. "Due to a lack of application of mind, let us not waste money," he said, referring to a project in the central part of the city.

The minister said Bengaluru completed building 196km of concrete roads during the previous tenure of the Congress (from 2013 to 2018), while vouching for their all-season durability. According to officials, whitetopping costs Rs 10 crore per kilometre, but offers a 25-year life and better-quality footpaths. "This is better than asphalting a road multiple times," Gowda said.

Even as the ongoing projects are nearing completion, the govt is preparing to take up 300km of whitetopping works across the city in phases. Beyond road upgrade, he outlined a broader mobility strategy pursued through B-Smile, which is tasked with addressing the city's long-term transportation challenges. He stressed that while Metro expansion remains important, Bengaluru simultaneously requires multiple modes of transport and road infrastructure improvement.

On the proposed tunnel road projects, Gowda said the tender process for the 16.4km North-South tunnel corridor has been completed and the final decision will be placed before the cabinet soon. The proposed 21.8km East-West tunnel connecting Old Madras Road and Mysuru Road is also expected to enter the tendering stage shortly.

The minister said Bengaluru requires 150km elevated roads, and tenders for 75km are expected to be floated this year under the public-private partnership model, with govt stepping in with viability gap funding if required. Toll fee is likely to kick in on elevated corridors longer than 10km.

NLSIU team excels at global ICC moot court contest, finishes 2nd

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A team from the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, emerged as the first runner-up at the 2026 International Bar Association (IBA)–International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot Court competition, held in The Hague, Netherlands, last week.

NLSIU student Ayesha Khan was adjudged the best speaker of the competition.

The competition was won by Bond University, Australia, while Singapore Management University secured the second runner-up position.

Widely regarded as one of the world's premier international criminal law mooting competitions, the IBA–ICC moot court contest brings together law students from across the globe to argue a simulated case before judges and leading legal experts.

This year, the moot problem, prosecutor vs Droganna Syrax, dealt with issues relating to the alleged obstruction of humanitarian medical aid, immunity of a sitting head of state, and the legality of a defendant's rendition before the ICC. The final round was held at the ICC before a bench, comprising judge Gocha Lordkipanidze, along with legal officers Sophie Courtmans and Magali Bobbio.

Students of NLSIU Ayesha Khan, Lohith Reddy, Aayushi Yadav and Pradnesh Kamat finished first runners-up at 2026 IBA–ICC Moot Court Competition in The Hague last week

The NLSIU team, comprising Ayesha Khan, Lohith Reddy, Pradnesh Kamat, and Aayushi Yadav, spent almost an entire year advancing through multiple rounds before they finally reached the international finals. Ayesha, now entering her fourth year at NLSIU, has long been interested in international criminal law with hopes to pursue advanced studies in the field. "I didn't pick this moot just for the speaking aspect. International criminal law is something I genuinely want to pursue further," she said.

For Pradnesh, the ICC moot court competition was never about just winning. "We had the opportunity to appear before leading prosecutors and experts associated with international criminal tribunals. That's something you simply don't get at most competitions," he said.

The fourth-year law student truly believes one of the competition's biggest lessons was the importance of focusing on one's own process rather than worrying about competitors. "When you moot with friends, everything becomes more intense," said Lohith. Long before the NLSIU team arrived in The Hague, they spent endless hours over the months testing one another's arguments, questioning each other's assumptions that naturally came with disagreeing fiercely from time to time.

"There were intense arguments about whose side was better and which argument made more sense. When you are mooting with friends, everything is amplified," he said.

— Shrreya Venkat

Fake sadhus steal gold ring from bizman

Bengaluru: A blessing from two self-styled Naga sadhus turned into an expensive lesson for a businessman, who allegedly lost his gold ring to a clever distraction theft.

RPC Layout resident Arun Sripadrao, 55, told police the incident occurred on June 12 when he visited the office of his friend, Deepa, on the service road. Two men, posing as Naga sadhus, approached them around noon. Speaking in Hindi, they struck up a conversation about Varanasi, Ayodhya and other religious places they had supposedly visited. They asked about Arun's family and business and offered to bless him for prosperity and well-being.

Arun initially declined, stating he already worshipped his own deity. However, the duo persisted and asked for a piece of paper so they could give him sacred vibhuti (ash) as blessing. One of the men placed vibhuti in Arun's hand and touched a trident to his head while performing what appeared to be a religious ritual. During the process, the accused allegedly removed Arun's gold ring worth Rs 1.3 lakh from his finger. It was only after the duo left, did Arun realise his ring was missing. TNN

Promised classroom, offered screen: Techie wins ₹62k after yr-long battle

Vindhya.Pabolu
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Bengaluru: When a techie enrolled for a cybersecurity certification course hoping it would help her earn a promotion at work, she expected a structured classroom training on a schedule that the institute had promised to tailor around her professional commitments.

CONSUMER IS KING

Instead, the institute pushed unwanted online alternatives and held on to nearly Rs 79,000 she had paid for over two years, despite its own written confirmation of a refund, triggering a legal battle.

The saga began when Rachana S Rao of Jeevan Bima Nagar enrolled for a CISSP classroom training course at Hackers University, run by APC Learning Solutions in Ashok Nagar. The institute allegedly assured her the course would be conducted through in-person classes on a fixed schedule suited to her work commitments and holiday plans. Based on these assurances, she paid Rs 78,949 on Dec 5, 2023, towards training fees and an exam voucher.

A Bengaluru woman won a consumer case after a training institute failed to provide promised classroom cybersecurity coaching and withheld her refund. The institute has been directed to pay her ₹58,949 with 6% interest, apart from ₹3,000 as litigation costs

AI

As the course date neared, no classroom sessions were scheduled and the institute instead offered online and video classes, which she declined. With her certification deadline approaching and promotion prospects dependent on the course, she sought a refund within 10 working days. She alleged that the institute delayed repayment for six months, citing audits, approvals, and financial issues, despite her making over 120 calls, emails, and visits. After she threatened police action, Rs 20,000 was refunded. She later approached the national consumer helpline, where she alleged the institute continued to deny her refund and communicated with her in a harsh tone. She then filed a consumer complaint on April 29, 2025.

In its defence, Hackers University claimed it had provided study materials and training recordings as scheduled, and alleged that Rachana's insistence on classes tailored to her convenience made delivery difficult. The institute argued that online and video classes were reasonable alternatives and that her refusal amounted to abandoning the service. It also cited a seven-day refund policy, saying her request on the 10th day made her ineligible for a full refund. It alleged that after receiving a partial refund, she spread false and malicious information that harmed the institute's reputation.

After hearing both sides, the commission noted that the institute had neither substantiated its seven-day refund policy claim nor demonstrated that it had delivered the service promised. It held that the institute had collected money by giving false assurances and failed to render the agreed in-person classroom training without providing any proper or acceptable reasons, clearly constituting deficiency in service and unfair trade practices.

In May 2026, the commission bench, comprising president Vijaykumar M Pawale and member Anuradha V, ordered Hackers University to refund Rs 58,949 with 6% interest per annum from Dec 5 until the date of realisation, apart from paying Rs 3,000 as litigation costs.

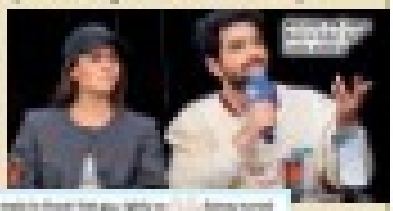
The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing - Walt Disney

WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY

George Lucas to give voice in Minions & monsters

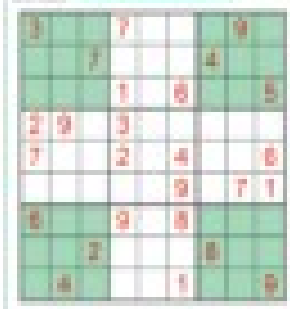
Vaibhav Sooryavanshi hits record 11-ball half-century

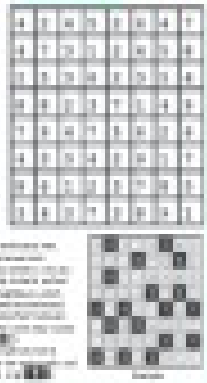
Samay Raina's 'garib aadmi' quip steps away from controversy to spontaneity

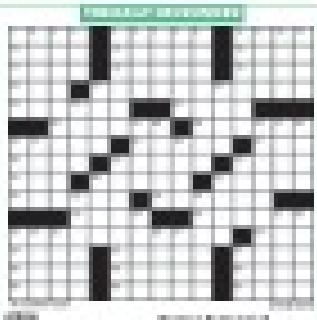


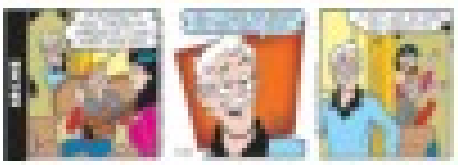
QUICK TAKE

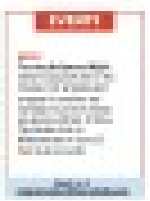
LEISURE

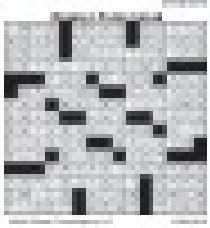


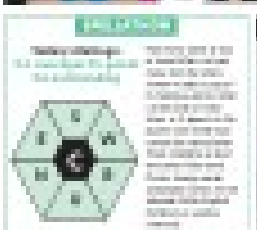


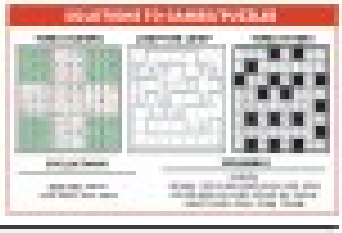












Retd prof falls to 300% profit bait, loses ₹2cr to scammers

Crooks Pose As Market Advisers

Chaithanya.Swamy
@timesofindia.com

The elderly man transferred ₹2 crore to the fraudsters' accounts over several weeks, only to discover the con job when he was unable to withdraw his money or profits

HOW YOU CAN STAY SCAM-PROOF

- Be wary of investment schemes promising guaranteed or exceptionally high returns on social media or internet
- Verify whether platform is registered with Sebi or other regulatory authorities before investing
- Do not trust stock tips or IPO recommendations shared via unknown WhatsApp or Telegram groups
- Avoid transferring money to personal or unfamiliar bank accounts provided by self-claimed advisers
- Find investment platforms independently instead of relying on social media ads
- Never share banking credentials or sensitive financial information with strangers
- If you suspect cyberfraud, immediately call 1930 and report the matter

Bengaluru: The lure of 300% returns cost a retired professional over Rs 2 crore after he allegedly fell victim to a sophisticated investment fraud operated through social media, WhatsApp groups and a fake trading portal.

The scammers posed as market experts and investment advisers, convincing him to invest crores in what appeared to be a lucrative IPO trading scheme.

According to the complaint filed by Mahesh (name changed), a resident of Banashankari I Stage, he came across a post on X on May 12 promoting a so-called 'Kanishka Scheme'. After clicking the link, he was redirected to WhatsApp, where individuals claiming to be investment advisers contacted him.

The accused, including a woman who identified herself as Shivani, allegedly promised returns of up to 300% and directed him to register on an online trading platform, arbrokerpro.com. They also added him to multiple WhatsApp groups where self-styled experts regularly shared stock market tips, IPO recommendations and investment strategies.

To gain his trust, the fraudsters claimed their company was registered with market regulators. One person, posing as a professor and market expert, allegedly guided investors on buying and selling IPO shares, while others provided bank account details for fund transfers and claimed the firm was registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).

Believing their assurances, Mahesh transferred money in multiple transactions between May 12 and June 17 to various bank accounts provided by the accused. The total amount invested came to Rs 2,05,22,765.

The fraud came to light when he attempted to withdraw his investment and purported profits but was unable to do so. When he questioned the accused, they allegedly demanded additional payments towards processing fees, taxes and other charges. When he refused, they stopped responding and did not return his money.

Realising he had been cheated, Mahesh contacted the cybercrime helpline and lodged a police complaint on June 19. A case has been registered under Information Technology Act and Sections 318 (cheating) and 319 (cheating by personation) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Power outage in some areas today

Bengaluru: Power supply will be interrupted in several parts of the city Tuesday, from 10am to 4pm, due to emergency maintenance works being carried out by KPTCL at 66/11KV RBI Layout and Adugodi sub-station.

Affected areas: RBI Layout, Kothanur, JP Nagar 5th Phase, Shreyas Colony, Gaurav Nagar, Nataraja Layout, Nrupathunga Nagar, Jambusavari Dinne, Chunchaghatta, Brigade Millennium and Brigade Gardenia Apartments, Adugodi, Salapuria Tower, Big Bazaar, Accenture, KMF godown, Nanjappa Layout, New MICO Road, Chikkalakshmaiah Layout, Mahalingeshwara Layout, Bengaluru Dairy, Forum Mall, Rangadasappa Layout, Lakkasandra, Wilson Garden, Chinnayanapalya, Chandrappa Nagar, Nimhans administrative block, Lalji Nagar, Shamanna Garden, NDRI police quarters. TNN

Water supply to apmt safe: BWSSB

Bengaluru: BWSSB said Cauvery water supplied to Creative Srinilaya Apartments in HSR Layout meets prescribed quality standards after residents raised concerns.

Officials collected samples from multiple locations and found adequate residual chlorine levels, indicating compliance with public health norms. Additional samples from BWSSB supply and the apartment's storage facilities have been sent for laboratory analysis.

During an inspection, officials found water from private tankers and borewells was being mixed with BWSSB water in a common sump where algae growth was observed.

BWSSB said no contamination was detected in Cauvery water and reiterated its commitment to regular quality monitoring and public health. TNN

Violator hits century, pays ₹27k fine!

Bengaluru: As commuters are making best use of the 50% discount on pending traffic fines, a city-based motorist paid Rs 27,500 for 100 traffic violations registered in three years (original amount was Rs 55,000). The rebate is on till July 10.

The fine was paid by **Vijay** from Bashyam Circle in Rajajinagar. Traffic police said they contacted Vijay last week and informed him about the govt's 50% discount on pending traffic fines.

According to police, most of the violations were for riding without a helmet, jumping traffic signals, riding in wrong direction and one-ways and using mobile phones while riding.

On Sunday and Monday, 75,487 cases with fines of over 2.2 crore were settled across the city.

Monitor patient's recovery, hosp told

▶ Continued from page 1

Allowing the petition, Justice Suraj Govindaraj directed that the surgery be performed under the supervision of specialists nominated by Vanivilas Hospital.

A medical board comprising experts in psychology, psychiatry, neurology, obstetrics and gynaecology, radiology, and anaesthesiology independently assessed the patient. The court took note of the board's recommendation that the patient does not have the ability to independently manage menstrual hygiene, recurring health complications documented by her parents.

Emphasizing that the paramount consideration is the patient's welfare and best interests, the judge concluded that the surgery will promote her health, preserve her dignity and enhance her overall quality of life and well-being. The court also observed that the patient's condition is irreversible.

The court instructed the hospital to monitor the patient's recovery and submit a report on the surgery and her post-operative condition to the registrar general within eight weeks of the procedure.

Nandini Milk reels: HC refuses to stay case against city doctor

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court Monday declined to stay further proceedings arising from an FIR registered against a Bengaluru-based doctor accused of posting social media reels alleging that Nandini strawberry-flavoured milk was spurious.

The petitioner, Dr Sharanya Padma, had approached high court challenging the FIR lodged by Malleswaram police under BNS Section 353(1)(b) as well as the consequential proceedings pending before a city court.

When the matter came up for hearing, Justice M Nagaprasanna questioned the basis of the doctor's statements made on social media.

Counsel for the petitioner argued that Dr Padma had not made allegations against milk in general, but had only commented on strawberry-flavoured milk variant.

Justice Nagaprasanna questioned whether the petitioner had conducted any scientific testing or obtained certification to establish that the product was unsafe. The judge also asked whether she had communicated her concerns to govt or any competent authority before publishing the videos.

"You cannot generate panic by saying milk is spurious and that strawberry flavour is not good. If you think it is not good, don't consume it. Why do all this? Making statements at the drop of a hat creates problems in society. Instagram is not meant for that," the judge remarked.

The petitioner's counsel informed the court that Dr Padma had subsequently apologised for her remarks.

However, refusing to interfere with the ongoing investigation at this stage, the high court issued notice to police and to R Padmavati, director of the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) and the complainant in the case. The matter was adjourned for further hearing.

Gold and ganja seized at airport

Bengaluru: Customs officials seized gold ornaments worth Rs 64 lakh and hydroponic ganja valued at Rs 70.7 lakh at Kempegowda International Airport.

On June 21, officials caught a passenger arriving from Kuala Lumpur and recovered 427.7 grams of gold ornaments concealed in his trouser pocket. On June 17, officials arrrested two passengers arriving from Bangkok and seized 2.02kg of hydroponic ganja hidden in their cabin baggage. TNN

EUREKA FORBES

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THE WEEKEND THAT WAS

A celebration of yoga, music, motorcycles and pride

GALLERY

A march for equality

Stretching into Yoga Day

Engines roar on World Motorcycle Day

Music took the centre stage

Dogs and ducks of World Cup'26

HOMZINTERIO

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10 Years of Crafting Magic

CHANGE OF TACK BJP Forms Panel To Find 'Betrayers', Will Act Based On Report | Many Of New Dept's Functions Overlap With Existing Ones

Advised it would set bad precedent, BJP drops Dharmasthala truth-test

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: BJP has called off its proposal to take MLAs to Dharmasthala for an oath-taking exercise to identify alleged cross-voters during the legislative council polls last week.

Opposition leader R Ashoka Monday said the party would instead abide by advice of senior functionaries who opposed the move. The development comes ahead of a meeting between state BJP president BY Vijayendra, Ashoka and party national president Nitin Nabin in New Delhi Tuesday to discuss the issue. The proposed meeting in Dharmasthala had drawn attention after Vijayendra suggested MLAs could take a "pramaana" before Lord Manjunatha and declare whether they had cross-voted. However, Ashoka said many functionaries had advised against using a religious place for a political issue.

CROSS-VOTING

Ashoka said senior legislator S Suresh Kumar, former CM DV Sadananda Gowda, deputy opposition leader Arvind Bellad and Union minister Pralhad Joshi were among those who spoke to him, opposing the plan.

"They said it would set a bad precedent and advised us not to proceed with it," Ashoka said. "While both our candidates won, the cross-voting indicates some legislators betrayed BJP. A committee has been constituted to investigate the matter and will submit its report. We will forward the findings to central brass."

Governing Congress won five of the seven seats that went to polls, securing a total 151 votes — 11 more than its expected tally. Ashoka alleged money was involved, and called it "horse-trading". He said those who cross-voted will face disciplinary action after the party completes its inquiry.

File picture

IANS

CAN'T DO MUCH? BY Vijayendra and R Ashoka with party candidates who were elected to the council. (Above) HD Kumaraswamy in Bengaluru on Monday

Issue closed, let's move on: HDK

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Barely 72 hours after insisting he had "all the information" on those who cross-voted during the legislative council elections and promising action, JD(S) state president and Union minister HD Kumaraswamy Monday virtually ruled out action against the "black sheep".

JD(S) legislators had even authorised him to identify party MLAs who allegedly cross-voted and penalise them, but Kumaraswamy played down the incident, saying some legislators may have acted in the "interests of their constituencies" after being promised development grants.

Calling the episode a "closed chapter", he said the party should focus on unseating the Congress govt and bringing the JD(S)-BJP alliance to the helm in 2028.

"Legislators were offered grants ranging from Rs 50 crore to Rs 100 crore, and some may have voted for Congress. We should move on and focus on the 2028 elections," Kumaraswamy said.

On BJP's Legislature Party meeting at Dharmasthala, he said there was nothing wrong with the decision. But he alleged cross-voting was often driven by "money power and muscle power" and said such incidents were not uncommon in politics.

Kumaraswamy, meanwhile, said he had formed a legal team to represent farmers opposing land acquisition for the proposed Bidadi township project. He said he had proposed township projects at five locations during his tenure as CM in 2006 but withdrew the plan in Aug 2007 after opposition from top Congress functionaries.

Questioning attempts to link him to the current project, he said the preliminary acquisition notification was issued by the present govt on March 12, 2025, and the final notification on June 10. He alleged authorities had failed to respond to objections filed by some 4,500 farmers.

He also alleged intense lobbying is under way among aspirants seeking ministerial berths in the cabinet headed by chief minister DK Shivakumar, and that positions are being secured through either a "management quota" or a "payment quota."

Shivakumar's NRI dept plan runs into hurdles, paused

Sandeep Moudgal & Pearl D'Souza | TNN

Bengaluru: The govt has put the proposal of creating a dedicated department for non-resident Indians on hold amid concerns that its functions may overlap with existing departments handling investments and entrepreneurship.

The proposal, backed by chief minister DK Shivakumar as part of a broader effort to attract overseas investments, was discussed at a recent cabinet meeting, but ministers deferred a decision and sought greater clarity on the department's role. Senior officials said many of the functions being considered for the proposed NRI department are already being handled by the industries and IT-BT departments.

The plan of a new department evolved during a recent meeting of NRI forums representing an estimated 25 lakh people from Karnataka staying abroad. Participants proposed a Rs 1,000 crore revolving fund to provide seed capital for startups.

Dubai-based businessman Ronald Colaco said the proposal aligns with the govt's manifesto commitment under LEAP, a programme with an outlay of Rs 1,000 crore aimed at promoting startups and entrepreneurship beyond Bengaluru.

Untapped source

But officials argued that such initiatives can be implemented through existing departments, reducing the need for a separate NRI-focused agency. "The Centre itself has an overseas Indian division under the ministry of external affairs and even welfare measures are dealt with by the Union govt. This negates the purpose of a new department," an official said.

Despite the reservations, the govt believes Karnataka's diaspora remains an untapped source of investment that could support the state's development agenda.

NRI representatives also renewed their demand for a single-window clearance mechanism to simplify investment procedures. "We need a single-window system where all departmental approvals can be obtained within a fixed timeframe," Colaco said, referring to investments in healthcare, hospitality, power generation and other sectors.

Lalitha Gowda, an investor based in the US, cited her experience with delays in obtaining land for an IT venture. "A plot was finally allotted to us in 2015 after seven years of applications. Now, it is embroiled in a legal dispute related to an alleged land-grabbing case," she said, adding that she spent nearly two years attempting to resolve the issue.

Cultural activities

Forum members also sought the creation of an NRI welfare fund to provide emergency assistance, support repatriation of mortal remains and aid distressed workers overseas. Shahul Thangal of Gulf Retirees Association said a majority of Karnataka's overseas workforce is employed in blue-collar jobs and contributes significantly through remittances.

Arun Kumar, president of Kannada Koota, Dubai, urged the state to support cultural activities abroad. "Celebrating Karnataka Rajyotsava overseas helps showcase our culture. We need financial assistance of Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore to organise such events overseas," he said.

DKS: Let's talk at VS; come to Bidadi: HDK

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The war of words between CM DK Shivakumar and Union minister HD Kumaraswamy of JD(S) over the Bidadi township project continued Monday with both inviting each other for discussions on the contentious project.

TOWNSHIP PROJECT

In a letter Monday, Shivakumar told Kumaraswamy: "I am excited to discuss the Bidadi Township project, which was first launched by you. I urge you and five members of your team to come to my chamber in Vidhana Soudha on June 26 at 11am to discuss the same." The letter was dispatched to Kumaraswamy's residence-cum-office in Bengaluru.

But within hours, Kumaraswamy, a former CM, responded with a letter of his own, saying it would be more appropriate to hold the meeting in Bidadi or Bhairamangala, where concerns of farmers could be discussed on site.

"... by having a meeting in Vidhana Soudha and keeping stakeholders like farmers and villagers who are going to lose their lands out would not be fruitful," he said.

Kumaraswamy said he already had programmes to attend on June 26 and that it would be ideal to meet with the affected parties in Bidadi.

He has criticised the project, claiming 80-90% of farmers oppose it and that over 4,000 objections have been filed against the govt's notifications.

Earlier, Shivakumar said the govt will respond if JD(S) legislators raise the issue in the assembly during the monsoon session of the legislature. "Let JD(S) debate it in the assembly on behalf of HD Kumaraswamy and we will give

SHORT TAKES

GPs to issue proof of residence certs

The govt has authorised gram panchayats to issue residence certificates to eligible persons within their jurisdiction. The certificate would serve as proof of residence for various official purposes, including securing jobs and availing welfare schemes. An order issued by rural development and panchayat raj department states panchayat development officers (PDOs) will be empowered to issue certificates through a special one-time drive. The govt said the decision will spare rural residents the hassle of travelling to hobli-level centres to obtain residence certificates.

CM launches Scout-2.0 scheme for meritorious students

CM DK Shivakumar launched Scout-2.0, a scheme for meritorious undergraduate students jointly organised by the higher education department and British Council. The programme will provide 30 students from Karnataka an opportunity to study and experience life in the UK. Shivakumar told students that education has the power to transform lives and that investing in young people was crucial for Karnataka's future. "Our govt is committed to widening horizons for every student and helping them flourish in a changing world," he said. He urged the selected students to bring back new ideas and contribute to building a stronger Karnataka.

IANS

HOWDY! CM DK Shivakumar with students during the Scout-2.0 programme in Bengaluru on Monday

Land for Gowda's 'Pustaka Mane'

Padma Shri winner M Anke Gowda, who has set up a free library with a collection topping 20 lakh books across 20 languages, will soon get two acres of land to expand his 'Pustaka Mane' in Mandya. Gowda said CM DK Shivakumar made the assurance during a meeting Monday. Gowda had sought five acres of land.

File picture

DKS shifts public meetings to Krishna

CM DK Shivakumar announced that he will hold all his public meetings, including interactions with members of the public, legislators, party functionaries, and party workers at his home office 'Krishna'. In a statement, he said he will no longer meet anyone at his Sadashivanagar residence stating that the change was made for "administrative convenience".

Cong denies NEET disruption

Bengaluru: Congress rejected BJP's allegations that the party's Sankalpa Samavesha in Bengaluru disrupted students appearing for the NEET-UG 2026 re-examination.

State Congress president BK Hariprasad said the party picked Sunday for the event after consultations with police. While admitting some traffic congestion and expressing regret if any student "genuinely" missed the exam, he accused BJP of diverting attention from failures in handling exam irregularities and paper leaks.

Home minister Priyank Kharge said only three students at RC College examination centre missed the test due to personal reasons, including missing a bus and carrying an old hall ticket. He said traffic advisories and a dedicated helpline had been provided. TNN

Work begins on youth clubs

Bengaluru: A cabinet sub-committee headed by CM DK Shivakumar met to discuss a framework to set up 10,000 Bharat Jodo youth clubs across the state.

The clubs, proposed at panchayat and ward-levels, are expected to serve as a link between the govt and local communities and would spread awareness on welfare schemes and development programmes. At the meeting, it was decided that the department of youth empowerment and sports (DYES) would

initiative. The clubs will be encouraged to organise sports and cultural activities.

Existing clubs and associations seeking recognition as Bharat Jodo clubs will have to apply to the govt. Officials said each recognised club at the panchayat or ward level would be eligible for financial assistance of up to Rs 10 lakh.

However, ministers clarified that not all applicants would be selected and that the organisations would be vetted before rec-

Man posts pix, bride-to-be & parents die by suicide in Mys

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: A couple and their daughter, whose wedding was scheduled for June 24, died by suicide in Mysuru district, allegedly due to harassment by a youth.

Police identified the deceased from Kempaiahna Hundi village in T Narasipura taluk as Shivanna, his wife Nagaratna and their younger daughter Rakshita, who was set to marry a Mysuru youth.

"Rakshita left behind a suicide note. An investiga-

ONE-SIDED LOVE?

tion is under way," police said. No arrests have been made so far.

The couple's elder daughter is married and lives in the village. Sources said after Rakshita's marriage was fixed, a man identified as Ullas Gowda allegedly began pressuring her to marry him.

Villagers had reportedly warned Ullas a few days ago against harassing the family.

Mysuru superintendent of police Mallikarjun Baldandi confirmed that "it was a case of one-sided love".

Villagers alleged that on Sunday night, Ullas sent morphed photographs of Rakshita to her fiancé, claiming he was in a relationship with her.

When the groom's family questioned Rakshita's family about the photos, the three, fearing humiliation and social stigma, died by suicide Monday morning.

Residents staged a protest while the bodies were being moved for postmortem, demanding Ullas's arrest. The bodies were later taken to Mysuru's KR Hospital mortuary for the procedure.

Mango price falls to ₹5 per kg, farmers protest

K Ranganth | TNN

Bengaluru/Kolar: The growing distress among mango growers in Karnataka's largest mango-producing belt of Kolar–Chikkaballapur triggered a day-long bandh in parts of Kolar Monday, with farmers demanding immediate govt intervention and announcement of a support price for the king of fruits.

Led by District Mango Growers' Association and supported by various farmers' and labour organisations, protesters highlighted the deepening crisis confronting thousands of growers as market prices have fallen well below production costs. Farmers are demanding a support price of Rs 8,000–Rs 10,000 per tonne, arguing that Karnataka should follow the example of neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, which has already announced support price of Rs 4 per kilogram for mangoes.

Kolar district accounts for nearly 45,000 hectares of mango cultivation, with Srinivaspur taluk emerging as the state's largest mango-producing region. However, growers say the two dominant varieties — Totapuri and Benisha — are fetching barely Rs 5 per kg in the market, while the cost of production has risen to around Rs 8.6 per kg.

TOI

FRUSTRATION FOR GROWERS: Farmers dumped mangoes on a road during Kolar bandh Monday

"Mango cultivation has become economically unviable. Prices are fluctuating continuously, input costs have increased and farmers are unable to recover even their basic investment," said District Mango Growers' Association president Nelatur Chinnappa Reddy. The crisis has become so severe that several small and marginal farmers are reportedly leaving ripe fruits unharvested as the cost of harvesting, transportation and marketing exceeds the returns they can expect from sales.

Farmer leaders blame the situation partly on inadequate processing infrastructure in Karnataka. While Kolar has only four processing units capable of handling about 900 tonnes of mangoes per day, neighbouring Andhra Pradesh has 41 processing units with a combined capacity of over 12,000 tonnes daily, enabling better procurement and price support to farmers.

Kolar deputy commissioner Ravi MR urged state govt to introduce the price deficiency payment scheme (PDPS), which was implemented in previous years.

KERC proposes steep cut in rooftop solar tariffs; future installations may earn less

Niranjan.Kaggere @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Thousands of rooftop solar owners in Karnataka could face lower returns on future installations if Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) proceeds with its proposal to reduce solar tariffs for projects commissioned between July 2026 and June 2029.

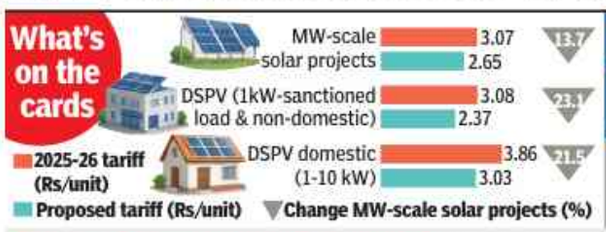
In a draft notification, KERC has proposed a significant reduction in tariffs paid for electricity generated from rooftop solar systems, citing a sharp decline in the cost of solar equipment and installation.

For domestic consumers installing rooftop solar systems of up to 10 kW, the tariff has been proposed at Rs 3.03 per unit, down from the current Rs 3.86 — a reduction of nearly 22%. For non-domestic distributed solar projects, the tariff is proposed to be cut from Rs 3.08 per unit to Rs 2.37.

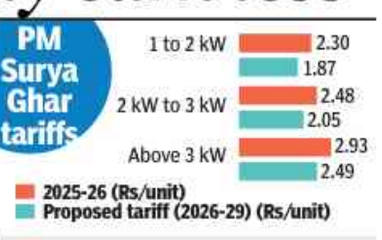
According to KERC officials, the benchmark cost of solar panels and associated equipment has declined considerably, making rooftop solar projects cheaper to set up. The commission has, however, retained special support for households installing rooftop solar systems under the Centre's PM Surya Ghar scheme. Consumers availing capital subsidies under the programme will continue to receive separate tariffs ranging from Rs 1.87 to Rs 2.49 per unit, depending on system capacity.

Energy sector experts say the proposal presents both opportunities and challenges for consumers. "While the tariff is lower, the cost of installing a rooftop solar system has also come down. The real impact will depend on whether the reduction in project costs offsets the lower tariff earnings," said a Bengaluru-based renewable energy consultant. Another power policy analyst warned that many prospective rooftop solar owners could see diminished returns if the proposed tariff reduction is implemented.

What's on the cards



PM Surya Ghar tariffs



Proposal covers ground-mounted solar projects too

KERC has proposed reducing tariffs for ground-mounted, utility-scale solar projects. The tariff for projects commissioned between July 2026 and June 2029 has been proposed at Rs 2.65 per unit, compared to the current Rs 3.07 per unit, a reduction of 42 paise per unit. Noting that smaller consumers, particularly households, have shown limited interest in adopting distributed solar photovoltaic (DSPV) systems, KERC has proposed differential capital costs and tariffs for domestic DSPV projects ranging from 1kW to 10kW.

While industry representatives say the proposals reflect the maturation of Karnataka's solar market, consumer groups fear they could discourage investments in rooftop solar systems at a time when the state is seeking to expand distributed renewable energy generation.

The final tariff order will be issued after KERC completes public consultation process.

Elderly man on morning walk robbed of ₹9k; two held

Bengaluru: A routine early-morning visit to a milk dairy turned into a terrifying ordeal for 70-year-old Krishna Swamy after two scooter-borne assailants threatened him with a knife and an iron rod before robbing him of Rs 9,000 in Sarayipalya.

Swift police action led to the arrest of the accused, identified as Mohammed Nahi, 20, and Syed Waseem, 26, residents of DJ Halli, within 24 hours. Questioning revealed the accused had spent Rs 8,000 of the robbed cash. TNN

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S. K. RAMAPRASAD
Attained the abode of the Lord on 20 Jun 2026
Pioneer and Guiding Force of the Indian Flour Milling Industry
With deep grief and profound sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved Shri S. K. Ramprasad, who has departed for his heavenly abode. A visionary milling technologist, his dedication and invaluable contributions shaped generations of millers and significantly advanced the Indian wheat flour milling sector. May his noble soul rest in eternal peace.
In Grief & Remembrance:
KARNATAKA ROLLER FLOUR MILLS ASSOCIATION
101 'A' Queens Corner, 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001
Phone: 080-22200084/40901055

Sri. T. M. ANJINEYALU
Smt. SARASWATI
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Musical tributes to Asha Bhosle's legacy

ASHA BHOSLE'S GRANDDAUGHTER ZANAI JOINS ENGLISH BAND GORILLAZ AT LONDON CONCERT

I DECIDED TO MAKE A SONG WITH HER TO CELEBRATE HER LEGACY, SAYS AR RAHMAN

Our family is proud, grateful that Tiger Pataudi was honoured at Winchester, says Saif Ali Khan

'No' is a powerful word, says Ragini

I want to start the hand of female-led franchises in the South — Ragini Dwivedi

FILM REVIEWS

A heartfelt celebration of culture, community & identity

Review in short

Two generations, two stories, one heavy-handed message

Review in short

TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026

DELHI HC REJECTS INFLUENCER-ACTOR SANDEEPA VIRK'S PLEA TO RELAX ₹20 LAKH TRAVEL SECURITY CONDITION

CO-OP MINISTER SHAH TO LAUNCH NAFED AUCTION PORTAL TODAY, ROLL OUT DIGITAL PUSH FOR FARMERS

HACK OF THE DAY — **HOW TO VERIFY GOLD HUID BEFORE BUYING JEWELLERY**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Stops jewellers from passing off wrong purity or fake hallmarks when you buy gold jewellery

WHAT TO DO: Use BIS Care to verify the six-character HUID stamped on the jewellery

STEPS:

1. Open the BIS Care app or BIS website
2. Tap Verify HUID in the services list
3. Enter the six-character HUID from the jewellery
4. Match purity, article, jeweller and centre
5. Buy only if details match the bill

NOTE: HUID verification works only for hallmarked articles; do not rely on shop screenshots

SCAN FOR MORE HACKS

Source: BIS Care app, Bureau of Indian Standards. Check official websites & updated rules.

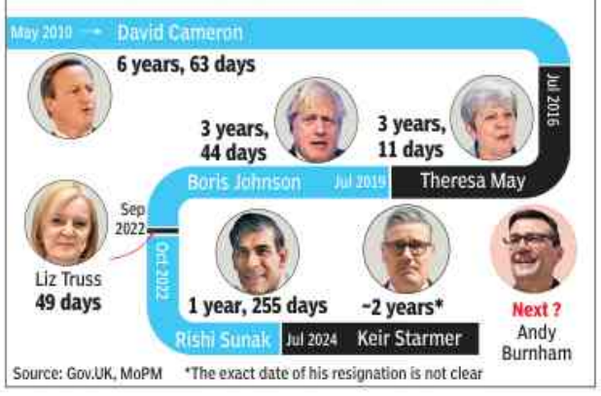
Woman gets 10 yrs jail for sexually assaulting teen girl in Puducherry

A local court in Puducherry's Karaikal has sentenced a 26-year-old woman to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment for kidnapping a 17-year-old girl and sexually assaulting her. In its verdict delivered on Friday, the court also sentenced the woman's male accomplice to four years in prison, while acquitting the driver of the vehicle used in the crime after finding him not involved in the crime. According to the prosecution, a 17-year-old girl residing in the town mysteriously went missing in 2019. Following a complaint lodged by her family, the Karaikal town police registered a case and launched an investigation. The police investigation revealed that a young woman, identified as Kalaiamuthu (26), had abducted the minor girl in a car and taken her to Chennai, where she sexually assaulted her. The investigation further revealed that Ganesan, a resident of Karaikal, acted as an accomplice to the crime, while another local resident, Suresh, had driven the getaway car. A few days later, police rescued the minor girl and arrested all three individuals under the different sections of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act. The driver, Suresh, was acquitted as the court found no evidence of his involvement or prior knowledge of the criminal conspiracy. TNN

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

UK set to have 7th PM in 10 years

Since Theresa May took office in 2016, the UK has seen a run of prime ministers whose tenures ended before the next national poll. Keir Starmer announced on Monday that he will step down as PM. He had been facing intense criticism over the appointment of Peter Mandelson as UK's ambassador to the US



Source: Gov.UK, MoPM *The exact date of his resignation is not clear

Trinamool rebel bloc removes Mamata from party chief post

To Tell Poll Panel It's The 'Real Party'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The rebel Trinamool faction held a special session Monday. LoP Ritabrata said his faction has maintained that Mamata can serve as chief adviser

Kolkata: Trinamool Congress's rebel bloc removed founder Mamata Banerjee as party chairperson Monday, installed former minister and 4-time Howrah MLA Arup Roy in her place, and launched a bid to claim the party's name and symbol before EC.

The faction led by Bengal assembly opposition leader Ritabrata Banerjee said it had formed a new national working committee — party's top organisational body — and would seek recognition as the "real" All-India Trinamool Congress. Mamata loyalists called the move illegal and branded it "a comedy show" and betrayal.

The 30-minute special session came more than 6 weeks after Trinamool's defeat in the state assembly elections. Rebel MLAs attended as delegates at a private hotel in Kolkata's New Town, along with 50 former Kolkata Municipal Corporation councillors.

Mamata founded Trinamool Congress on Jan 1, 1998, after breaking away from Congress and had served as its president since then. "We have maintained that she can serve as the chief advisor," Ritabrata said.

The newly announced 10-member NWC includes former Kolkata mayor Firhad Hakim, former state sports minister Aroop Biswas, MLAs Sabina Yasmin and Rathin Ghosh as vice presidents, and Ritabrata, Sandipan Saha and Biplab Mitra as general secretaries. Roy is also a member.

Rebels said TMC's existing NWC had outlived its mandate. Ritabrata cited Article 20 of party constitution, which he said requires formation of an NWC at least once every 3 years. According to records submitted to EC, TMC's last NWC was formed on Feb 12, 2022, Ritabrata said. Mamata camp fired back, issuing show-cause notices to Hakim, Biswas, Roy, Javed Khan, Ghosh, Mitra, Snehasis Chakraborty and Yasmin for indulging in anti-party activities.

MLA and spokesman Kunal Ghosh dismissed the session as a farce, calling it "comic behaviour" and saying TMC is "equal to Mamata Banerjee" and "all else is a circus".

MLA Madan Mitra said party constitution allowed "no chairperson other than Mamata". "Everything else is illegal. Trinamool Congress is Mamata Banerjee," Mitra added.

Egg attacks must stop, says Bengal BJP chief

Kolkata: Bengal BJP president **Samik Bhattacharya** on Monday condemned recent incidents of protesters hurling eggs at Trinamool functionaries and sought to distance his party from such acts, saying these only tarnished the state's image, reports **Rohit Khanna**.

"This is not a model to register your protest in BJP. Why should any BJP worker throw eggs?" he said. "The entire nation is watching. This is a loss of face for West Bengal. This must stop now."

Earlier, he had cautioned BJP workers against any violence. A few days ago, state's municipal affairs minister Agnimitra Paul had blamed such incidents on "natural outburst of public frustration against alleged misgovernance and corruption".

WhatsApp message brings home a dad missing for 16 years

Vishvendu Jaipuriar | TNN

Ramesh Ganjhu with his son Nageshwar after their reunion in Chennai

Chatra: A WhatsApp message did what 16 years of searching could not — it brought a missing father home.

Ramesh Ganjhu, 45, from Benti village in Jharkhand's Chatra district, left home nearly 2 decades ago after a minor family dispute. His wife Munna Devi and their two sons searched for years before losing hope.

On June 18, a message shared across volunteer WhatsApp groups changed everything. Father and elder son had been living only kilometres apart in Chennai, unaware of each other.

Battling mental health issues and substance dependence, Ramesh had drifted through cities before ending up homeless on Chennai's streets. Volunteers from Chennai-based NGO Udavum Karangal found him in Poonamallee on June 16 and brought him to a rehabilitation centre. "He was given medical and psychiatric care," said Srinivasa Rao, a social worker associated with the NGO.

As treatment helped him recover fragments of memory, volunteers learned he was from Jharkhand and circulated his photograph through WhatsApp groups. The trail led to a grocery shop in neighbouring Kalyanpur village, whose owner recognised Ramesh and alerted his family.

Then came the coincidence: Nageshwar, Ramesh's elder son, was working on Chennai's outskirts, only a few kilometres from the rehabilitation centre. Within hours, father and son met.

Ramesh returned home on June 21. "My prayers have finally been answered," Munna said. Nageshwar, who was only 5 when his father disappeared, said he was simply happy to have him back.

"When technology is combined with empathy, it doesn't just connect devices — it reconnects lives," said Pappa Vidyaakar, founder of the NGO.

With spears & swords, Nihangs stay locked inside Uttarakhand gurdwara

Kalyan.Das
@timesofindia.com

SIEGE CONTINUES

Dehradun: A tense standoff with Nihang Sikhs at a gurdwara in Nagrasu, Rudraprayag district, entered its third day Monday, with four Nihangs still locked inside the premises with spears and swords, reportedly demanding the release of four Nihangs arrested after a June 16 clash with locals over an alleged parking dispute in Karnaprayag.

Amid the standoff, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann spoke to Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami, urging an amicable resolution through dialogue and offering Punjab govt support if required.

Heavy police and ITBP deployment remained in place as talks continued. Police said the Nihangs had initially locked themselves inside the gurdwara and allegedly taken two men, including a sevadar, hostage after a dispute with the management committee during langar Saturday evening.

Three of the seven Nihangs have since left the premises, while both hostages have been released following negotiations, police said.

IG (Garhwal range) Rajeev Swaroop said the Nihangs had no issues with police or local residents and denied any direct link between the Nagrasu standoff and the Karnaprayag clash. He said the dispute in Nagrasu stemmed from an internal matter and that police had only responded to an emergency call, not to make arrests.

Meanwhile, Bhartiya Sikh Sangathan (Uttarakhand) president Salvinder Singh Kalsi claimed the dispute arose over accommodation at the gurdwara after visiting Nihangs heading to Hemkund Sahib demanded more rooms than could be provided. He urged the administration to resolve the issue peacefully.

Grave dug up, gold stolen from corpse

Coimbatore: Ten days after a fish trader passed away, a relative and his friend dug up the grave, exhumed the body, and stole a three-sovereign (24gm) gold chain from the corpse at Sowripalayam graveyard in Coimbatore on June 16.

Nagaraj, 56, who died on June 6, was buried wearing the chain with a fish-shaped pendant. The theft came to light when his family discovered the disturbed grave during preparations for his 16th-day ritual. TNN

Scent of a scarf: Sniffer dog cracks 6-yr-old's rape case

Bareilly: A police sniffer dog helped Sambhal police trace the accused in the sexual assault of a six-year-old girl after investigators found no CCTV footage, eyewitnesses or immediate forensic leads. Mary, a seven-year-old Labrador, followed the scent from a scarf recovered near the spot and led officers to a house less than 300 metres away, reports **Krishna Chaudhary**.

Sambhal SP K K Bishnoi said police had no clear lead and decided to deploy Mary. Given the scarf recovered from the area, she tracked the scent and stopped outside a residential house. When police raided the house, the accused had fled. Officers chased him, and police said he opened fire. He was injured in retaliatory action, overpowered and taken into custody.

CBI arrests former CEOs of RCFL, RHFL in ₹7,623-cr bank fraud

New Delhi: The CBI arrested former CEOs of Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCFL) and Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL) on Monday in connection with separate cases pertaining to an alleged fraud of Rs 7,623 crore in multiple public sector banks, officials said.

The CBI has arrested former RCFL director and chief executive officer Devang Mody and former executive director and CEO of RHFL Ravindra Sudhalkar, they said.

"In RCFL case, the accused have caused a loss of Rs 4,097 crore to 13 Public Sector Banks (PSBs), whereas in RHFL, the loss amount is Rs 3,526 crore to 10 PSBs," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

The CBI probe has shown that Mody, who was the CEO of RCFL from April 2017 to December 2018, "was a key decision-maker" responsible for managing the operations of the company, the agency said.

"He approved loans to intermediary and conduit companies despite being aware that such lending was contrary to RBI guidelines and the sanction conditions governing borrowings from Public Sector Banks," it said.

Sudhalkar served as the ED and CEO of RHFL from October 1, 2016, to March 31, 2022, it said. "...He approved loans to intermediary and conduit companies despite such lending being contrary to the company's lending policies, NHB/RBI guidelines and the conditions governing borrowings from Public Sector Banks," itsaid. PTI

PUCC renewal proposal aims to tackle air pollution

▶ Continued from page 1

In contrast, owners of older BS-IV private vehicles — manufactured before March 2020 — may have to renew their PUCC every six months, instead of the current requirement of once a year. For BS-I to BS-III vehicles, PUCC renewal would be made mandatory every three months, compared with the current requirement of once every six months, as per the plan.

TOI has learned that the changes have been proposed as a part of the plan to roll out a new regime, 'PUCC 3.0'.

People aware of the development said validity of PUCC for commercial BS-VI vehicles is proposed to be different. In case of vehicles that are up to six years old, PUCC validity will be for two years. The norms for BS-VI commercial vehicles that are over six years old would be the same as those for private vehicles.

They said the changes were proposed keeping in mind the contribution of vehicular emission to air pollution. "The process for PUCC is also being improved to ensure there is no manipulation in readings," said an official.

A former joint secretary in road transport ministry welcomed the proposal, as new BS-VI vehicles have less emission. However, Anil Chhikara, a former deputy transport commissioner, said govt should take into consideration that maintenance of even new vehicles has an impact on emission.

Low-alcohol move: Kerala churches protest

Kozhikode/Kottayam: Thalassery archbishop Mar Joseph Pamplany and Metropolitan of Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church Yuhanon Mar Diascoros opposed the budget proposal to levy a lower tax on low-alcohol beverages in state.

Pamplany said such policies, which promote alcohol consumption, are unacceptable. "The attempt to make alcohol readily available in state under the guise of 'low-strength alcohol' is unfortunate. Such a stance will lead to a setback especially when govt is undertaking major, anti-addiction initiatives like Toofan," he said. He said the new govt cannot evade its responsibility by claiming that it is implementing the previous regimes' policies. TNN

BJP's first Bengal budget lines up 1 lakh jobs, 33% for women

Sarthak G & Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

Kolkata: Bengal's first BJP govt proposed in its maiden budget Monday to fill a lakh vacancies across departments, a third of these with women recruits, while retaining every direct-benefit scheme inherited from the erstwhile Trinamool ministry and launching a monthly allowance of Rs 3,000 each for jobless graduates.

Finance minister Swapan Dasgupta said half the proposed recruits would be appointed "teachers, professors or non-teaching staff" in govt-run educational institutions, which currently have 4 lakh teachers on their rolls. Of the 3.5 lakh vacancies in govt departments, the education sector alone accounts for 85,000. Around 20,000 recruits will be added to the police force and 1,000 to the Eastern Frontier Rifles, Dasgupta said.

In a first for Bengal, wherever applicable, 10% of posts will be reserved for Agniveers — youth enrolled in the armed forces through the Centre's Agnipath scheme.

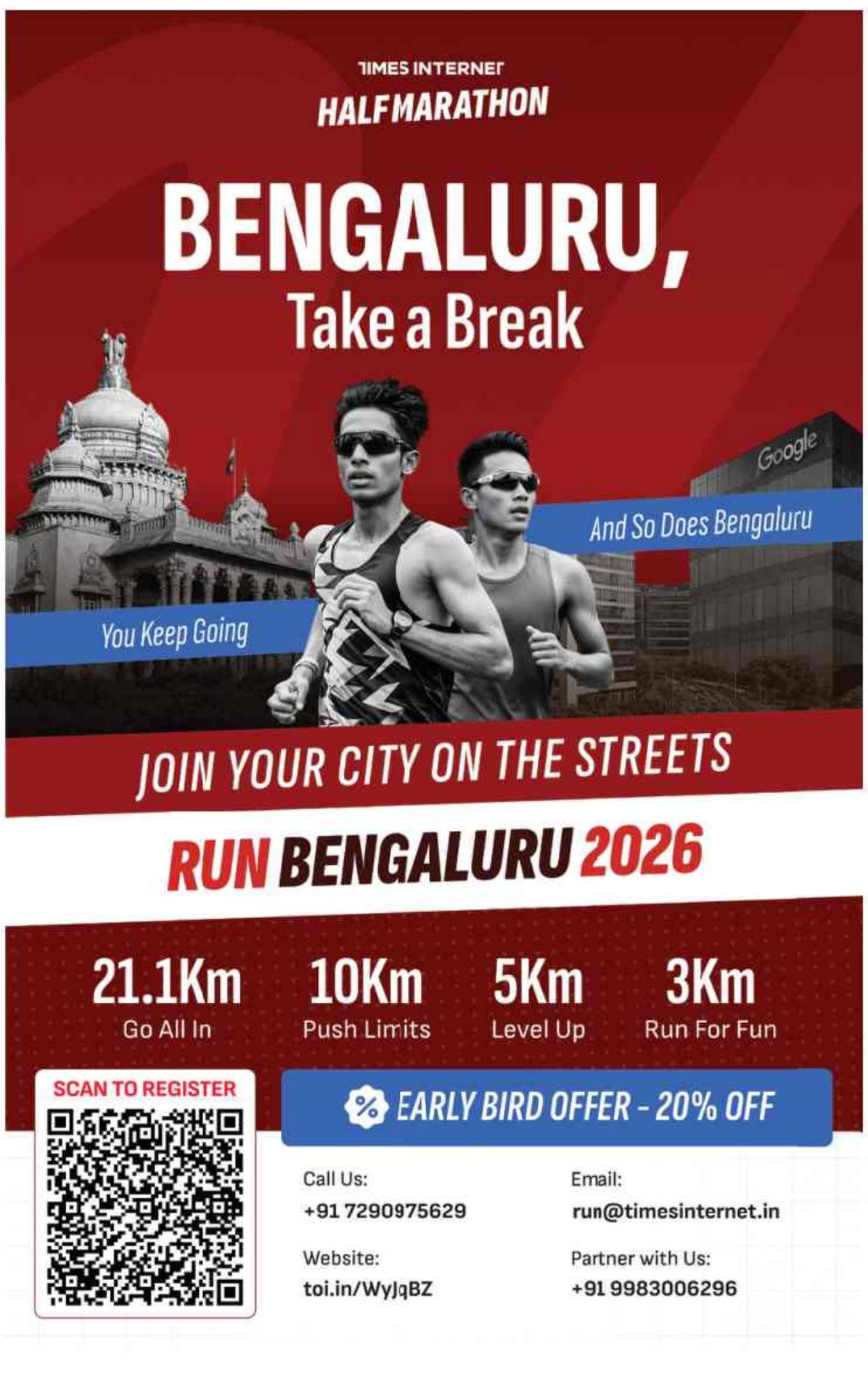
Dasgupta said recruiting agencies would be brought under a common institutional structure modelled on UPSC to restore public confidence in recruitment exams.

Besides "Bhorsha Karmasuchi", the unemployment allowance for graduates, the budget promises Rs 2,000 each for eligible beneficiaries from families earning less than Rs 1 lakh a year. Age eligibility is 21 to 45 and payouts are scheduled to begin on Oct 1.

State slashes funds for madrassa edu

In its first budget, the Suvendu Adhikari govt in Bengal slashed the funds for minority affairs and madrassa education department by Rs 3,548 crore — more than 60% from the outlay in the previous TMC govt's interim budget for 2025-26 in Feb.

Finance minister Swapan Dasgupta proposed an allocation of Rs 2,165.4 crore for the department, down from Rs 5,713 crore earmarked in the interim budget. The reduction drew criticism from opposition parties, which alleged the move would adversely affect educational and welfare programmes for minorities. Bengal has around 614 recognised govt-aided madrassas, with 4.5 lakh students enrolled. — Zeeshan Jawed



NEET war room: Delhi unit that kept an eye on retest across 5,440 centres

At NTA's Okhla HQ, 250 Observers Tracked Feeds, Alerts In Real Time

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

Thousands of centres had been compressed into one flow of feeds — a room expected to spot when something, somewhere, moved out of line

New Delhi: Long before candidates reached NEET-UG exam centres Sunday, the day's first feeds were already streaming into NTA's Okhla headquarters, where, sources said, around 250 observers had taken their places. From there, they — with the help of AI tools — watched exam rooms, tracked biometric verification and responded to alerts from a network spanning 551 Indian cities and 14 overseas locations.

This was the nerve centre of an exam involving about 22.7 lakh candidates, 5,440 centres and more than 95,000 exam rooms — the apex of a monitoring system extending through the education ministry, 34 centrally funded institutions, state-level control rooms and district collectorates. No group of observers could continuously watch every frame from the 1,38,560 CCTV cameras installed across centres. The system, therefore, combined human surveillance with AI tools that scanned feeds and flagged unusual movement or possible violations. Virtual observers could switch to a centre, examine its live feed and pass an alert down the chain for verification and action.

The multi-tier structure was meant to prevent Okhla from becoming the only point of response. Ahead of the exam, NTA director general Abhishek Singh said the agency was working with "all stakeholders concerned", including district coordination committees headed by district magistrates, state police and intelligence agencies, to ensure smooth conduct.

The cameras were only one part of the picture reaching the headquarters. Centre-level officials reported whether gates had opened on time, candidates had cleared frisking and biometric checks, jammers were functioning and the examination had begun as scheduled. Updates moved through dashboards, telephone lines and designated officials.

A centre systems officer was stationed at each venue to keep its cameras and technical systems working. Around 6,700 physical observers were deployed, while biometric personnel, invigilators, police and district officials formed the on-ground response network. An alert noticed remotely could be checked by the observer or systems officer at the centre and escalated to district or state authorities. NTA described the exercise as a "whole-of-govt effort" involving around seven lakh officials, including police, observers and examination staff. "Team Bharat" was how the agency characterised the network of central ministries, state govts, security forces, banks and technical agencies assembled for the test.

The scale was closer to an election operation than a conventional entrance examination. NTA deployed 51,311 signal jammers, 38,795 frisking personnel and 48,448 workers for biometric verification and face authentication. Two invigilators were assigned to each room. On an average, 40 to 50 security personnel were positioned at every centre.

The command network underwent a nationwide mock drill on June 20. Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who visited the headquarters while the test was under way, had said govt was taking all necessary measures while maintaining "complete confidentiality" from the preparation of the question papers through every subsequent stage.

By 5.15pm, the exam was over. "So far, from what we have heard, everything went well. We have received good reports," Singh said. He added that NTA had received no complaint or email alleging a paper leak. Inside Okhla, thousands of centres had been compressed into one flow of feeds, dashboards, calls and alerts — a room expected to spot when something, somewhere, moved out of line.

Impersonation scam: MBBS students among 30 arrested in Bihar

Kshitiz@timesofindia.com

A medical student being checked by a police personnel in Kota

Patna: A major impersonation racket allegedly operating during the NEET-UG 2026 retest was busted in Bihar's Lakhisarai district on Sunday with the arrest of 30 people, including MBBS students, biometric staff and others accused of facilitating dummy candidates at examination centres.

According to a statement issued by the Bihar Police Headquarters (PHQ), elaborate arrangements had been made to ensure a fair and malpractice-free examination. "However, during the test, we received inputs that fake/scholar/dummy candidates were trying to appear at some centres instead of the original examinees," the statement said.

The information was verified by centre superintendents, static teams and flying squads, following which a special team led by the SDM and SDPO, Lakhisarai, conducted intensive checks. The operation resulted in arrests from three centres — KRK College, Kendriya Vidyalaya and High School Hasanpur.

The PHQ said, "With the collusion of biometric staff, dummy candidates were allowed entry to take the exam for real aspirants. Forged Aadhaar cards were used as ID after document fabrication."

Among those arrested are nine alleged impersonators, or paper solvers as they are called. They include students of medical, nursing, dental and ayurvedic colleges from Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Delhi and Rajasthan.

Police also arrested an original candidate from Nalanda and two alleged accomplices — Arpit Singh of Muzaffarpur, a fourth-year MBBS student of Anugrah Narayan Magadh Medical College and Hospital (ANMMCH), Gaya, and Ranjit Kumar of Nalanda, a fourth-year MBBS student of Bhagwan Mahavir Institute of Medical Sciences (BMIMS), Nalanda.

Eighteen biometric staff members, including three supervisors and 15 operators from Lakhisarai, Sheikhpura and Nawada districts, were arrested. One of them, Mayank Kashyap of Vaishali, is a fourth-year MBBS student at Patna Medical College Hospital (PMCH).

"Police have registered three separate cases. Further investigation is underway to trace the wider network and identify more beneficiaries," the PHQ statement said.

The arrests come weeks after the May 3 NEET-UG paper leak that led to the re-examination. Police believe the involvement of biometric company employees and medical students points to an organised interstate network.

According to police sources, the probe found that medical students had allegedly struck deals worth Rs 30 crore to Rs 40 crore to appear in the examination in place of genuine candidates. Police suspect Arpit to be a key figure in the network. He had earlier been questioned by the CBI in connection with NEET-related cases and was interrogated multiple times during the 2024 NEET paper leak probe.

ANMMCH principal Dr Lata Shukla Dwivedi said Arpit had been under the scanner of investigating agencies for some time and could no longer be allowed to continue his medical studies if found involved in such serious malpractice.

"A meeting of academic council has been called on Tuesday, where heads of different departments will discuss the matter and take a final decision regarding the student. An e-mail message was sent on Monday on the available ID at the college office questioning the student, why he was absent without information, while all leaves had been cancelled," she said.

(With inputs from Alok Kumar in Gaya)

Toll rises to 7 in ammonia leak at TN seafood unit; 68 in hosp

Chennai: The toll in Sunday's ammonia gas leak at a private seafood processing unit in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvallur district rose to seven Monday, while 68 workers continued to undergo treatment across multiple hospitals, reports **Swedha Radhakrishnan**.

According to a health department bulletin, three deaths were recorded by 7 am Monday, while two others succumbed by 5pm. Two persons had been reported dead by 8 pm on Sunday.

"Authorities have initiated an investigation into the cause of the leak. We have recommended continuous surveillance of exposed workers for delayed respiratory complications and , environmental monitoring of the affected premises" said health secretary Darez Ahmed.

Doctors treating the patients said prolonged exposure had caused severe respiratory distress, facial swelling and lung damage.

4 fertiliser ships exit Hormuz, head to India

New Delhi: Four ships carrying around 1.8 lakh tonnes of urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and sulphur have crossed the Strait of Hormuz and are now heading to ports in India, fertiliser department said Monday. The ships crossed the conflict-hit sea channel last week.

TOI has learnt they sailed through the strait Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Three oil tankers also crossed the critical sea route Saturday. Officials said the seven India-bound ships crossed the strait just before Iran announced its fresh closure. While two ships loaded with fertilisers are carrying 91,750 tonnes of urea, another vessel is transporting 55,000 tonnes of DAP and the fourth one has 33,251 tonnes of sulphur.

They are likely to reach ports in Krishnapatnam, Kakinada (Andhra), Paradeep (Odisha) and Mundra (Gujarat) soon. "The fresh imports will be offloaded to supplement fertiliser buffers and secure ongoing agricultural requirements," govt said. TNN

Probe launched against 2 cops in Assam over frisking of student

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Guwahati: Assam Police have ordered an inquiry against two cops over allegations that a Brahmin student was compelled to remove his sacred thread during frisking at a NEET retest centre in Nalbari district Sunday.

Based on the findings of a preliminary probe by the district administration, havildar Paban Kalita of Belsor police station was placed under 'reserve close' (removed from active duty and attached to a police reserve or headquarters). SP Bibekananda Das said proceedings against DSP (security and intelligence) Kusum Basumatary may be initiated, depending on the outcome of a separate inquiry being conducted by an additional SP (an IPS officer).

Nalbari district commissioner Nibedan Das Patowary said no instructions had been issued by NTA, district administration or police, requiring candidates to remove sacred threads before entry, and that officials deployed on exam duty had been briefed on permitted and prohibited items. Yet, the on-duty personnel directed the candidate to remove the thread and hand it to his mother before entering the centre. "We called the entire police personnel present and the frisking team and told the boy to identify the personnel who asked him to remove the sacred thread. He identified the duo, who apologised," said Patowary.

The student's mother said the family had replaced the sacred thread before the re-test to comply with rules on metallic objects. "We changed his sacred thread and removed the ring from it, as ornaments cannot be carried inside the exam centre. Still, they removed it and handed it over to us. Our son felt nervous."

All Assam Brahmin Youth Council condemned the incident and asked state govt to act within 24 hours, warning of broader protests if action is not taken. "The sacred thread is a revered symbol of the Brahmin community's religious identity, spiritual discipline, Vedic traditions, and cultural heritage. The allegation that a student was forced to remove this sacred symbol, which is worn after the sacred Upanayana ceremony in accordance with Vedic customs, has caused profound pain to countless people of faith," the council said Monday.

Leaked video fake, hunt on for its creators

New Delhi: Dismissing as fake a viral video claiming the June 21 NEET-UG retest question paper had been leaked on the Telegram application, Centre and National Testing Agency (NTA) Monday initiated action to trace those who created and circulated it.

Press Information Bureau's Fact Check Unit said reports alleging a leak before Sunday's exam were "unfounded and false". The video, circulated widely across social media platforms, purportedly showed that question paper was available on Telegram. Govt had blocked the app from June 16-22 to prevent cheating. NTA said it's working with Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) and law-enforcement agencies to identify those responsible. NTA director general Abhishek Singh said no complaint of any leak had been received. TNN

Student held for selling fake NEET paper online

Indore: A first-year law student was arrested in Madhya Pradesh for running an online scam that allegedly defrauded around 35 medical aspirants by promising to sell leaked NEET papers, reports **Sagar Choukse**.

"The accused has been identified as Akshay Malviya, an Indore resident," DCP Rajesh Tripathi said. Police said they received an urgent email from Kota police regarding the fraudulent activity.

Investigation found Malviya routinely circulated deceptive posts on Instagram prior to NEET, claiming to have access to the actual question papers. Desperate students clicking on his viral posts were redirected to a payment link. The content would only unlock after the victims made an online transaction. Malviya had digitally edited old question papers.

6 Tigers with me, says Shinde as rebel UBT MPs formally join Sena

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Imtiyaz Shaikh

Six MPs from Sena UBT join deputy CM Eknath Shinde-led Sena in Mumbai

Mumbai: After more than a week of drama and speculation surrounding their political moves, six rebel Shiv Sena UBT MPs formally joined the deputy CM Eknath Shinde-led Sena Monday, making their crossing over official. Shinde held a show of strength at the Y B Chavan Centre at Nariman Point to welcome them into the party fold.

"Not one, but six tigers are present with me, and all six are Dhurandars," Shinde said. He added he doesn't do "half-hearted operations". "All operations are foolproof, and Operation Tiger has been successful," he said.

The MPs who have switched over are Nagesh Patil Ashtikar (Hingoli), Om Raje Nimbalkar (Dharashiv), Sanjay Dina Patil (Mumbai North East), Sanjay Deshmukh (Yavatmal-Washim), Sanjay Jadhav (Parbhani) and Bhausaheb Wakchaure (Shirdi). Their crossing over came eight days after they skipped a meeting of his MPs at Matoshree called by Sena UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray, six days after they submitted a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking to form a separate group and five days after they skipped the parliamentary party meeting called by Sena UBT in Delhi.

The rebels' move leaves UBT Sena with only three Lok Sabha MPs now, while the number of Shinde Sena LS MPs grows to 13, adding to Shinde's political weight in the BJP-led NDA.

Shinde said he was welcoming the MPs into "the real Shiv Sena family of Balasaheb Thackeray and Anand Dighe." These "hardcore Shiv Sainiks have joined the real Shiv Sena," he said.

Speaking of the importance of the occasion, he said, "Four years ago, on June 22, 2022, we led a rebellion. We were 40 MLAs initially, but we have hit a sixer now. In 2022, to save the Shiv Sena, the bow and arrow and Balasaheb's ideology, we rebelled and did the first operation. Now the 2nd phase has started."

Advising UBT Sena to "introspect instead of abusing those who have left," Shinde termed the Uddhav Thackeray camp as "people with a chemical locha (problem)."

Shinde said the entry of MPs into Shiv Sena had been carried out within the legal, constitutional and parliamentary framework. "All legal and parliamentary processes are complete. All the 6 MPs will fight the next polls on a Shiv Sena ticket and will win," he said.

He said the 6 MPs had joined Sena "not for personal gain but for the people of their constituency, the development of the constituency and justice."

4 of 26 UBT legislators skip Uddhav meet

Four out of 26 Sena UBT legislators were absent for a meeting of the party's MLAs and MLCs called by its chief Uddhav Thackeray Monday, the first day of the monsoon session of the Maharashtra legislature, reports **Chaitanya Marpakwar**. MLAs Sanjay Derkar, Rahul Patil and Sanjay Potnis and MLC Sunil Shinde are said to have informed the party they would not be able to make it to the meeting, citing MLC polls, ill-health and personal work as reasons. Sena UBT has 20 MLAs and six MLCs in the legislature. In the meeting, Uddhav told the legislators to aggressively raise questions related to farmers and the public in the House, and to put up a united face in the wake of a crisis due to the MPs' defection. He directed them to hold meetings with party workers in the rebel MPs' constituencies. Party MLC Ambadas Danve said Operation Tiger was not discussed.

BJP rebel neta stuns Sena in Nashik, Mahayuti wins 16 of 17 MLC seats

Clara.Lewis@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: BJP's rebel candidate Gokul Gite sprung a shocking defeat on Shiv Sena and Mahayuti candidate Narendra Darade for the Nashik district local body MLC seat as results of legislative council polls were out Monday.

Gite, a close associate of BJP minister Girish Mahajan, won by 109 votes. He secured 357 votes against Darade who polled 248. From the last day of withdrawal of nominations, there had been tension between the Mahayuti alliance partners BJP and Sena over the Nashik seat.

Last week, CM Devendra Fadnavis had claimed that a truce had been reached in Nashik and that the Mahayuti would win both the Nashik and Jalgaon seats. While Darade claimed he had been betrayed, minister Uday Samant, who was in charge of the polls, said they would analyse the results and submit a report to the CM and the two deputy CMs.

Mahayuti won 16 of the 17 MLC seats. BJP won all 11 seats it contested while Sena won three of the four seats it fought. NCP won Pune and Raigad-Ratnagiri-Sindhdurg seats while Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) drew a blank.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HAJIRA SULTANA W/o. NASIR SHAIKH Resident at No.13, KZ Bait Ul Iman, 3rd Main, Near Kali Temple Road Subedarpalya, Yeswanthpura, Bengaluru 560022 have changed my name to HAJIRA SHAIKH vide affidavit dated 20.06.2026 sworn before notary Chandrakala, Bangalore.

I, Pushpa Latha Gudipally w/o Sudheer Reddy Gudipally, R/o A-209, Jyothi Enclave, 1st A Cross, Kaggadasapura, CV Raman Nagar, Bangalore-560093. I have changed my name from Pushpa Latha Gudipally to Pushpa Latha Katkuri for all purposes.

I, Parmar Chandresh Nanji R/o: 402, 1247, 25th A Cross Rd, Sector 2, HSR Layout, Bengaluru - 560102, have changed my name as Parmar Chandresh Nanjibhai for all future purposes.

NAME DIFFERENCE DECLARATION: I, JANA SANDHYA RANI D/O Krishnamurthy.J residing at 386, 12th Main Road, Vasundhara Layout, Ananthanagar 3rd phase, Huskur Gate, Kammasandra, Electronic City, Bengaluru 560100 hereby declare that the names "Jana Sandhya Rani", "Sandhya Rani.J", "Sandhya Rani" and "J.Sandhya Rani" belong to one and the same person, namely myself sworn before Notary Public Muniswamy.T Reg.no.19927 vide Affidavit no: IN-KA69025989058381X dated 14.10.2025 before Notary Public/Anekal. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified by the name "Jana Sandhya Rani" for all purposes.

I Suneeta spouse of Army No JC 781687Y Rank - Nb/ Sub, Name. Rabendra Singh of 515 Army Base WKSP, Bangalore and resident of Vill Musarahi Jhor, Deorahat Bangar, Kanpur dehat Uttar Pradesh, 209112 have declared that my name & DOB has wrongly mentioned in my husbands Army Service record, the same has to be changed from Suneeta to correct Name Suneeta Devi and DOB changed from 15 June 1985 to correct DOB 1 Jan 1983 according to my Aadhar card vide affidavit certificate No. IN-UP50837785617 1Y 12 May 2026. Both Names & DOB pertains to one and same person.

I, SUJATHA GULUR DORESWAMY, W/o VUTHANUR SREENIVASA MURTHY,residing at No. 14, Anugraha, 9th cross, Varma Layout, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Dasarahalli, Hebbal, B'lore-24, do hereby solemnly declare that my maiden name is SUJATHA GULUR DORESWAMY and in the Passport name was entered as Sujatha Murthy by mistake. I further declare that I shall be called my name as SUJATHA GULUR DORESWAMY (Sujatha G D) for all future purposes vide aff Dt.23/05/2026 sworn before Notary Vijayalakshmi K B'lore.

I, Udeshkumar Krishandev Vij alias Udesh alias Udesh Vij, S/o Krishandev Diwanchand Vij, R/o House No. 521/9, Near Anjaneya Temple Road, Anjaneya Badavane, Davangere, Karnataka, 577002, hereby state that the above name variations refer to one and the same person for all purposes.

I, Fiona Loveleen Pinto, born on 13/10/1983. Residing @ # 2146/1, 2nd cross, after Jyothi school St Thomas town post, B'lore-560084 have changed my name to FIONA PINTO Vide affidavit IN-KA94821515324364Y dated 22/06/26 sworn before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Hussain Ahmed Jawad Ghuloom S/o Ahmed Jawad, residing at Flat No. D-13, 1st Floor, D Block, Diamond District, Bangalore- 560008. I have changed my name to Hussein Ahmed Jawad vide affidavit dated 20/06/2026 sworn before notary Lakshmaiah, Bangalore.

CHURCH NOTICES

I M.S. Lakshmi, aged about 52 years W/o Sudeendra B.V. residing at No.547, 6th cross, Vidyamanyanagar, Vishwaneedam Bangalore-560091 have changed my name to LAKSHMI SUDEENDRA instead of M.S.Lakshmi, M.S.Laksmi Sudeendra. Now as per Aadhar card my name is LAKSHMI SUDEENDRA Vide affidavit dated 22/06/2026 sworn before notary N.Nagappa.

LOST & FOUND

LOST Document: I, Y.N Jayanna, resident of 4/B, near BMTC Bus Stop, Yelahanka Old Town, Bangalore - 560064, have lost my original Sale Deed (Doc No: 858/858/1, Book No: 1, Volume-1340, Page Nos: 46 to 50, Registered as No: 2469/2001/2002), registered on 09/07/2001 at the Yelahanka Sub-Registrar Office. The document was lost on 15th May 2026 in the Yelahanka area. If found, please return it to the above-mentioned address or contact me at 9611790610. I shall not be responsible for any misuse of the said document.lost and found e-complaint dated on: 19/06/2026 number- 2262656/2026 Y.N Jayanna

LOST OF DOCUMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Lost of Share certificates **No. 0399 & 0400** and Security Deposit Receipts **Nos. 002181 & 002182** for equity shares of **CENTURY GALAXY DEVELOPERS LIMITED** for **3262 Shares** in the name of Mr. Hussain Ahmed Jawad Ghuloom. Any person who has a claim in respect of the said shares should lodge such claim with the Company at its Registered Office at B Tower, 9th Floor, Corporate Block, Diamond District, Kodihally, Bangalore-560008 within 15 days from the date of this advertisement, else the Company will proceed to issue Duplicate share certificates.
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(**M/s. Century Galaxy Developers Limited**)
Date : 22-06-2026 Place: Bangalore

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PM sanctions ₹2L in ex-gratia to families

▶Continued from P 1

CM Yogi Adityanath cut short his Aligarh visit and returned to Lucknow on hearing of the fire tragedy. He visited KGMU and announced Rs 5 lakh each in compensation to the families of the dead and Rs 50,000 each for the critically injured. "UP govt stands firmly with all the affected families with full sensitivity and commitment," he said, also ordering a probe within seven days by a two-member SIT. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, too, condoled the deaths and sanctioned Rs 2 lakh in ex gratia to the families that lost a member each in the blaze. Officials said 15 fire engines were deployed to fight the fire, with the first reaching the site within eight minutes of receiving an alert. NDRF and SDRF teams mounted a rescue even as firefighters battled the blaze for over an hour before bringing it under control.

Deputy chief minister Brajesh Pathak was among the first to reach the site and monitor rescue efforts. DGP Rajeev Krishna, ACS (home) Sanjay Prasad and director general of fire services Sujeet Pandey were also there.

The fire-ravaged building had business establishments spread across the basement, ground and two upper floors. The second floor housed Learning Space library and Head Hopper Studio, a gaming and animation firm with a training wing.

At least 15 fire engines were deployed to fight the blaze

DEATHLY FLAMES

Time & cause | **2:30 pm, short circuit** in AC outdoor unit at pet clinic, **Usha Mehta Marg**

Building | Housed pet clinic, library, Learning Space, Head Hopper Studio

Fire alert | Sweeper Marzeena first to spot fire, alerted occupants

Escape | **6-7 students broke windows, used power cable from upper floor**

Response | **First fire** tender in **8 min, 14 tenders** in **45 min**

Duration | Fire brought under control after **2 hours**

Rescued | **22 unconscious** people pulled out

Casualties | **15 declared dead, 4 minor injuries, 3 severe burns**

Victims | **Most aged 22-27,** interns/staff at gaming studio; **35 students present**

Other Loss | **Over 6 pets died** at veterinary clinic

Probe | Authorities investigating cause, fire safety measures

The CM has announced financial assistance of ₹5 lakh each for the families of those killed, while ₹50,000 each will be provided to the injured

Hearts break as pets perish in blaze

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: A number of cats and dogs perished too, in the fire that is suspected to have begun in a pet shop here, in cages far away from their "hoomans", those strange two-legged beings whom they allow to care and in return rule their hearts.

Many pet owners rushed to the clinic when they learnt of the conflagration, hoping that they would somehow rescue their companions. Vibhu Awasthi, her eyes brimming, said the animals had no way to escape. "They trusted humans with their safety. Thinking about what they must have gone through in those final moments is heartbreaking," he said.

Sunita Pandey, whose one-year-old indigenous breed dog

PTI

A rescue officer hands over a rescued cat to the owner

Ramji Bhaiya was among the pets feared dead, sobbed: "I kept hoping someone would bring him out alive. Ramji Bhaiya was like a family member. The house will never be the same." Sunita had admitted her dog to the clinic on Sunday. "I never thought that would be the last time I would see him," she added.

Kiran Shukla learnt about the fire from her neighbour and immediately switched on the television. "The moment I saw the building on TV, I felt something was wrong. My cat was there. I rushed there praying she had been rescued. We celebrate birthdays with our pets, take them to hospitals..., and care for them like our children. How do we explain this loss to our family," she said.

Rakesh Khanna's Labrador was at the clinic. "My children grew up with him... They kept calling me every few minutes asking if he had been found. I don't know how I will tell them that he is gone."

According to preliminary estimates, more than six dogs and cats perished in the blaze. Rescue personnel said many animals are believed to have died of smoke inhalation.

Papa, please save me: A son's SOS

Mohsin Usmani & Anjanaya Singh | TNN

Lucknow: Final phone calls, frantic searches and memories too painful to hold defined grief after a fire swept through a three-storey commercial building in Lucknow's Aliganj locality Monday, killing student trainees and staff of a gaming and animation studio.

For families, hope flickered until it did not. Prabhjot Singh cannot forget his son Sukhmani Singh's last call from inside the smoke-filled building. "Papa, please save me. I don't think I will survive. The fire has spread in the entire building. We have locked ourselves inside a bathroom. Smoke is entering here as well. We are suffocating," Sukhmani told him.

Prabhjot rushed to the spot and spent hours showing his son's photograph to rescuers, police and bystanders, searching for a miracle. Instead, Sukhmani's body was found among the dead.

Among those who died was 21-year-old Abdul Rahman, sole breadwinner for his paralysed father, homemaker mother and sister. "Everything depended on him, his father is bedridden, and he worked hard to support the household," said his friend Salman Siddique.

Survivors described a nightmare that got bigger in minutes. Someone shouted: "Bhaago aag!" Then thick black smoke swallowed corridors on the first floor where the gaming studio operated. "With zero visibility and smoke choking the lungs, I thought it was my last day," said one of the survivors, Shailendra (24), a trainee from Pauri Garhwal in Uttarakhand.

"People were shouting. We had no choice and could not see in front of us. The smoke filled the entire office on the first floor. Doors were not visible. I saw Anucha getting a panic attack and became unconscious and now she is no more. I will not be able to move on from this," he said.

"Smoke spread so fast that finding an exit or recognising colleagues standing nearby became impossible," said another trainee at the studio, said smoke spread so fast that finding an exit — or recognising colleagues standing nearby — became impossible.

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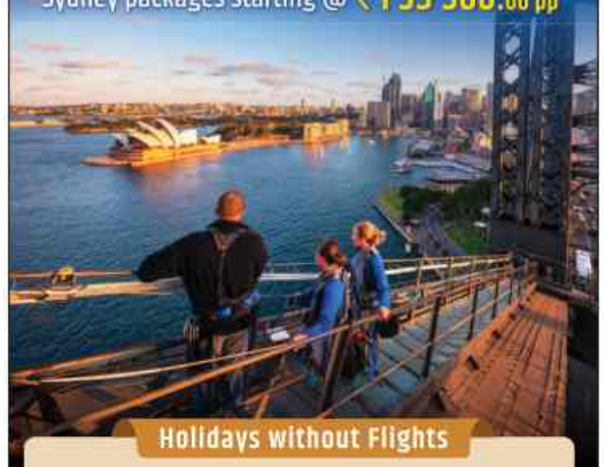

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Girl scores 100% in CBSE Class-12 after re-evaluation

Ranchi: Ranchi girl Avni Kejriwal Monday claimed she scored 100% in CBSE's Class 12 exam after a re-evaluation. PTI

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client intends to purchase the immovable property mentioned and described the schedule below from its owners **(i) Sri. Mohan,** and **(ii) Sri. Lakshmikanth R,** both sons of Late Ramaiah (hereafter collectively referred to as "Owners"). The Owners represent that the Schedule Property is free from any encumbrance, mortgage, charge, lien or litigation and they have not entered any sort of Agreement/MOU/Deeds etc., for transfer of the Schedule Property. Any person/s having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest with respect to the Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, conveyance, acquisition, partition, transfer, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, encumbrance, inheritance, succession, lease, easement or demand or objections or claims of any nature whatsoever for the proposed transaction shall lodge their claim(s)/objection(s)/demand(s) with the undersigned supported by documentary evidence **within Fifteen (15) days** from the date of publication of this Notice failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction as though there are no claim(s)/objection(s)/demand(s) to the proposed transaction.

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Vinay K. S., Advocate,
Vinay Kademane & Associates
307, 3rd Floor, Prestige Centre Point, No.7/49, Edward Road, Bengaluru-560001 Ph.: 080 22863885 / 49763233
email: vinay@vinaykademane.in

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 20-06-2026

नॉर्थ ईस्टर्न इलेक्ट्रिक पावर कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.
(A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of NTPC)
Office: Brookland Compound, Lower New Colony, Shillong-793003, Meghalaya
CIN No.: U40101ML1976GOI001658 Regd. | Website: www.neepco.co.in

Advertisement. No. NEEPCO-02/2026 **Dated: 23.06.2026**

North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, (an equal opportunity employer) is looking for experienced professionals on fixed term basis as per details given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Vacancies
1	Executive (ERP)	2
2	Executive (HR) (Corporate Communication)	1
3	Executive (Civil), FTB-5	3
4	Executive (Civil), FTB-4	3
5	Executive (Civil), FTB-1	3
6	Executive (Security)	4
7	Executive (Law)	1
8	Executive (Safety)	2
9	Executive (Finance), FTB-4	6
10	Executive (Finance), FTB-2	6
11	Executive (Medical)	5
12	Executive (HR) (CSR)	2
	Total	38

Interested eligible candidates should log on to our website **www.neepco.co.in** Careers for viewing detailed eligibility criteria, qualification criteria, experience criteria, job profile, remuneration details, the full text of the advertisement and for applying. The online application portal will remain open from **23.06.2026** to **13.07.2026** only online mode of application will be accepted. Any further addendum/ corrigendum/ updates will be published only on our website.

General Manager (HR),
Talent Acquisition, NEEPCO Ltd.

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN HOMOEOPATHY
(An Autonomous Body of Ministry of Ayush, Government of India)
Jawaharlal Nehru Bhartiya Chikitsa Avum Homoeopathy Anusandhan Bhawan
61-65, Institutional Area, Opp. D-Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058

F.No. AD 22019/66/2025-ADMIN
Advt. No. 185/2026-27 **Dated: 12.06.2026**

Vacancy Notice for Various Posts on Contract Basis

CCRH is intends to engage technical and non-Technical manpower purely on contract basis or fixed term basis in its various ongoing projects /proposed research projects/studies in its Headquarter/Institute/Units and other places.

For detailed advertisement regarding eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions of the post, please visit official website of the Council, namely **www.ccrhindia.ayush.gov.in.**

Assistant Director (Admin)

Government of India
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India)
Project Implementation Unit – Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE
REVISION OF USER FEE RATES FOR FY 2026-27 AT TOLL PLAZA IN HEDAGINABELE, AGRAHARA, KRISHNARAJAPURA AND SUNDARAPALYA ON NE-7 APPLICABLE FROM 25.06.2026.

1. The public are hereby informed that pursuant to Government of India Gazette Notification No. S.O.2326 (E) dated. 07.05.2026. and approval of Competent Authority, NHAI vide letter dated 16.06.2026, the User fee rates at Hedaginabele, Agrahara, Krishnarajapura and Sundarapalya Toll Plazas date w.e.f 25.06.2026 (00:00 Hrs) for the use of 4 Laning of Expressway from km 0.000 to km 71.00 (along with 0.700km approach towards NH 207 with interchange on NH-4 at start point) of Bengaluru Bethamangala Section of Bengaluru Chennai Expressway will be levied date w.e.f. 25.06.2026 (00:00 Hrs) as below: -

Amount in Rs.

At Hedaginabele Toll Plaza

	Category	Fee for Single Journey	Fee for return Journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single Journeys in a month
From Agrahara Toll Plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	50	75	1,655
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	80	120	2,675
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	170	250	5,605
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	185	275	6,110
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	265	395	8,785
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	320	480	10,695
From Krishnarajapura Toll plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	115	175	3,855
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	185	280	6,230
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	390	585	13,050
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	425	640	14,235
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	615	920	20,460
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	745	1,120	24,910
From Sunderpalya Toll plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	145	215	4,805
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	235	350	7,765
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	490	730	16,270
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	530	800	17,750
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	765	1,150	25,515
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	930	1,400	31,060
From Baireddipalle Toll Plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	195	290	6,465
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	315	470	10,440
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	655	985	21,875
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	715	1,075	23,865
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	1,030	1.545	34,305
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	1,255	1,880	41,765

At Agrahara Toll Plaza

	Category	Fee for Single Journey	Fee for return Journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single Journeys in a month
From Hedaginabele Toll Plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	50	75	1,655
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	80	120	2,675
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	170	250	5,605
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	185	275	6,110
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	265	395	8,785
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	320	480	10,695
From Krishnarajapura Toll plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	65	100	2,200
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	105	160	3,555
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	225	335	7,445
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	245	365	8,125
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	350	525	11,675
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	425	640	14,215
From Sundrapalya Toll plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	95	140	3,150
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	155	230	5,090
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	320	480	10,670
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	350	525	11,640
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	500	755	16,730
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	610	915	20,365
From Baireddipalle Toll Plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	145	215	4,810
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	235	350	7,765
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	490	730	16,275
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	535	800	17,755
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	765	1,150	25,520
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	930	1,400	31,070

At Krishnarajapura Toll Plaza

	Category	Fee for Single Journey	Fee for return Journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single Journeys in a month
From Hedaginabele Toll Plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	115	175	3,855
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	185	280	6,230
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	390	585	13,050
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	425	640	14,235
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	615	920	20,460
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	745	1,120	24,910
From Agrahara Toll Plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	65	100	2,200
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	105	160	3,555
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	225	335	7,445
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	245	365	8,125
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	350	525	11,675
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	425	640	14,215
From Sundrapalya Toll plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	30	45	950
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	45	70	1,540
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	95	145	3,220
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	105	160	3,515
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	150	225	5,050
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	185	275	6,150
From Baireddipalle Toll plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	80	115	2,610
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	125	190	4,215
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	265	395	8,830
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	290	435	9,630
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	415	625	13,845
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	505	760	16,855

At Sundrapalya Toll Plaza

	Category	Fee for Single Journey	Fee for return Journey within a day	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single Journeys in a month
From Hedaginabele Toll Plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	145	215	4,805
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	235	350	7,765
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	490	730	16,270
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	530	800	17,750
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	765	1,150	25,515
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	930	1,400	31,060
From Agrahara Toll Plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	95	140	3,150
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	155	230	5,090
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	320	480	10,670
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	350	525	11,640
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	500	755	16,730
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	610	915	20,365
From Krishnarajapura Toll plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	30	45	950
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	45	70	1,540
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	95	145	3,220
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	105	160	3,515
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	150	225	5,050
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	185	275	6,150
From Baireddipalle Toll plaza	Car/Jeep/Van/LMV	50	75	1,655
	LCV/LGV/Mini Bus	80	120	2,675
	Truck/Bus (2 Axle)	170	250	5,605
	3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	185	275	6,115
	Heavy Construction Machinery/Earth Moving Equipment or Multi Axle Vehicle (MAV) (4-6 Axles)	265	395	8,790
	Oversized vehicles (7 or more axle)	320	480	10,705

2. The following concessions are available as per the Gazette Notification at above Toll Plaza:-

a) For return journey within 24 hours from time of payment for all categories of vehiclesthe amount payable is one-half times the fee for one way journey.

b) For 50 single journeys in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles thefee payable is Two-third of amount of the fee payable for fifty single journeys.

c) The driver or owner or a person in charge of a mechanical vehicle which is loaded inexcess of permissible load specified for its category, shall be liable to pay fee forentering the overloaded vehicle on the National Highway to the fee collecting agency, equal to the fees specified in sub–rule 1A of rule 10 of the said rules, and shall not beentitled to make use of the highway section unless the excess load has been removed from such mechanical vehicle.

d) The rates published above are for the year FY 2026-27 and shall be revised w.e.f from 01.04.2027 which is annual rate revision for all the user fee plazas across the country as per rule 5 of NH fee rule 2008 and its amendments.

3. The list of exempted vehicles is as given in the amendment to NH Fee Rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950 E.

4. The Toll notification for this plaza S.O.2326 (E) dated. 07.05.2026 has been published in Gazette of India.

5. For any complaints contact: 1033 and enquiry or giving suggestions please contact Project Director, Bengaluru-Tumkuru Road, Beside Nagasandra Metro Station, Bengaluru - 560073 Ph no. 080-28394403/080-28394383.

NOT JUST ROADS, BUILDING A NATION

Can India's late-blooming giant crack tennis's top 100?

Dhakshineswar Suresh, The 6'6" Davis Cup Star, Has His Eyes Set On The Grand Slams

Prajwal.Hegde@timesofindia.com

At 26, Dhakshineswar Suresh is considered mid-career by tennis standards. Yet, India's newest Davis Cup star is only just beginning his journey in professional tennis.

A communications graduate from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Suresh has taken the 'scenic route' to the pros, a debilitating back injury costing him two crucial years.

The 6ft 6in Indian, ranked No. 478, ignited a growing sense of anticipation in Indian tennis during Feb's Davis Cup qualifiers, when he upset world No. 162 Guy den Ouden and No. 88 Jesper de Jong. Sandwiched between those singles triumphs was another defining contribution — partnering Yuki Bhambri to clinch the decisive doubles rubber against the Netherlands.

For a country that has spent years searching for its next singles contender, those performances have rekindled both interest and hope.

Since graduating in May, Dhakshineswar has remained in Winston-Salem, spending the past weeks sharpening his game under the guidance of Wake Forest coach Tony Bresky. The immediate goal is clear: break into the top 250 and earn a place in the qualifying draws of the Grand Slams.

His ambitions, however, extend far beyond that. "The next step is the top 100. That would be a big achievement," he says. "I have big dreams. But obviously it's very, very tough in tennis. I'll take it step by step."

Few people are better placed to assess an Indian tennis talent than Bresky. He has previously worked with Somdev Devvarman, who climbed to a career-high No. 62, and he sees similar promise in Dhakshineswar.

"He's got an explosive game, a very big serve, a big forehand and he comes to the net a lot," Bresky says. "He has great hands, too, which makes him stand out in doubles."

Bresky stops short of making grand predictions. "He has every chance to become a top-100 player," he says. "And then, who knows from there?"

If there's one thing Dhakshineswar understands, it's the distance between adversity and achievement. He has travelled that path in mind, body and tennis — from a debilitating back injury that left him unable to sit or stand for 30 weeks, to serving aces to seal India's Davis Cup tie.

Ten years ago, he caught the eye of Devvarman, who had retired from the Tour earlier that year and was organising a camp for players in Chennai. Devvarman watched as the lanky teenager pulled up on a scooter, a tennis bag over his shoulder.

As days turned to weeks, the first thing that struck him was the youngster's work ethic. The hard yards did not scare him. More importantly, at 16, he was already competing with professionals physically in the camp, even outperforming them in some drills.

Over the next two years, as Dhakshineswar won the national under-18 title, the obvious question was what path would serve him best. Should he turn pro or should he take the collegiate route? Devvarman knew the answer. The harder part was convincing Dhakshineswar's father, Suresh.

A former third-division cricketer from Dindigul, Suresh is a part-time actor.

Suresh had introduced his son to tennis with the belief that he should "shine individually". "When he was born, I told my wife in the hospital itself that my son wasn't going to be a doctor or engineer; he was going to be a sportsman," Suresh says.

In Dindigul and later in Chennai, the family of three was just about making ends meet.

When Devvarman reached out, Suresh was at his lowest point and Dhakshineswar was battling his lower-back injury.

After moving to Chennai, where his wife Banu found work as an accountant and became the family's sole breadwinner, Suresh sold his small cable TV business in Dindigul to travel with his son to tournaments.

The years spanning 2018, 2019 and the pandemic were brutal. Suresh watched his son battle a disc bulge. Dhakshineswar lay on a bed too small for his frame, his legs hanging over the edge, unable to move around without help.

"Doctors told us he must be operated on, but I wasn't convinced and then finally an orthopaedic surgeon in Chennai told us we should try physio," Suresh says. "It was 30 weeks of torture. Those days were awful."

Looking back, Suresh believes the pandemic years may have been the turning point. After months of physiotherapy with Dr Yash Pandey, Dhakshineswar made his way back onto the court.

This time, when he spoke to Devvarman, Suresh was convinced.

"Somdev said, 'Uncle, better send him to college. You don't have a penny in your pocket and he needs to grow as a player'," he recalls.

In 2021, Dhakshineswar left for the US to begin his college tennis journey.

A young Dhakshineswar shows off his tennis trophies

Devvarman believes that despite Dhakshineswar's ranking, he was the most logical choice for the Davis Cup squad. "DK is literally the only guy in our country playing high-stress, high-pressure matches twice a week. Nobody else is doing that," he says.

For the 26-year-old, the exposure has already proved transformative.

"I've improved a lot as a player over the past four years," Dhakshineswar says. "I've seen how it works. That's why I'll be based in the US. It will definitely help me become a better player."

For all the heightened expectation surrounding him — and the sense that he might yet make up for lost time — there is no visible rush in his approach. Instead, there is a quiet conviction that his path does not need to mirror anyone else's timeline.

Dhakshineswar Suresh in action during a Davis Cup tie with New Zealand in Feb

"DK is literally the only guy in our country playing high-stress, high-pressure matches twice a week. Nobody else is doing that

—Somdev Devvarman | FORMER TENNIS PLAYER

Meet Bud, the therapy dog no one expects

Chennai-based psychologist Sharanya Srinivasan with Bud, her Rottweiler

Ramesh Shankar

Kamini.Mathai @timesofindia.com

Dark and handsome, fiercely so, yet with eyes so gentle they seemed to look straight into my soul.

My heart skipped a beat.

He took a step back, too, almost as if he could sense my nervousness.

"He does that," said a voice from behind him. "He gives people space, lets them warm to him before he makes a move."

And that was how I first met Bud Spencer, Rottweiler by breed, therapy dog by profession.

Sharanya Srinivasan, the Chennai-based psychologist Bud belongs to, knows that Rottweilers are hardly ever the first breed people think of when they imagine therapy dogs. Golden retrievers and Labradors, gentle, universally trusted, usually dominate that space. Rottweilers, with their intimidating physique and reputation as guard dogs, are more often associated with protection than emotional support. Bud shatters that stereotype.

"Bud has a way of knowing what people are feeling, whether they are anxious, grieving or just emotionally overwhelmed and what may make them feel better," says Sharanya, whose clients range from neurodivergent children to CEOs with chronic stress.

"Bud's movements are measured," says Sharanya. "In the first session, he just observes the client calmly. But he can sense emotional shifts. His first response is usually to look up at me, as if checking whether support is needed." There is a brief window, says Sharanya, sometimes just 60 seconds, during which a person experiencing anxiety can either spiral into panic or return to emotional balance. "I've found that Bud's presence helps people move towards regulation. He simply stays close to them until breathing slows and the nervous system settles."

For people experiencing depression, Sharanya says Bud's approach is different. He shows affection through gentle gestures, a nuzzle, resting his head on the knee, or giving what Sharanya describes as "the most delicate kisses". "The physical affection can trigger the release of oxytocin, the hormone associated with bonding and emotional comfort."

One of Sharanya's clients, Aarthi (name changed), says when she first began coming in for therapy, she was "petrified" of dogs. "More so when I realised she had a Rottweiler." It took a while, but Bud now sits on — yes, on — Aarthi's feet during her sessions.

"If Bud steps away from someone, it means he needs distance... It works the other way as well. He must allow people their emotional pace before connecting with them

Sharanya Srinivasan
PSYCHOLOGIST

Bud isn't introduced to every client, and interactions are structured so that both parties feel comfortable. Sharanya has a glass door between her room and Bud's. "If a client tells me they are scared of dogs, Bud stays in the other room. He sits by the door looking in. When the client is comfortable, I let Bud in," says Sharanya.

Bud's journey as a therapy dog began almost by accident seven years ago. At the time, Sharanya was running a school and the therapeutic centre. Bud was taken to the school as a puppy and grew up among children. "The kids loved him. Rottweilers are extremely sensitive to human emotions, but often misunderstood. They can read people, but they also need their own space."

Bud's training has always centred on respecting boundaries, says the specialist with more than 25 years of experience. "If he steps away from someone, it means he needs distance. People are taught not to chase or touch him at that moment. It works the other way as well. He must allow people their emotional pace before connecting with them."

Portrayals in the media have contributed to the perception of the Rottweiler as a "dangerous dog", but experts in animal-assisted interventions say training of therapy dogs is more about upbringing and temperament than breed.

Clinical psychologist Minal Kavishwar, also a certified animal-assisted therapist, says aggression is not a fixed trait of Rottweilers but often the result of human behaviour, including mistreatment or poor breeding. In India, too, sporadic reports of mauling incidents have reinforced fear. In 2024, the department of animal husbandry asked states to stop issuing licences for the sale and breeding of Rottweilers.

"Different breeds are good for different interventions. Dobermans, being working dogs, tend to respond well to structured tasks such as tug-of-war, obstacle courses. Some breeds prefer quiet interaction with humans," says Minal, who founded Animal Angels Foundation (and Therapy Centre).

"A Rottweiler or pit bull can be affectionate, just as a Golden Retriever can be aggressive. A friendly dog is not always a good therapy dog," adds Akash Lonkar, who works with Animal Angels.

TIMES NATION

India acquiring 9 retired Jaguars from UK for spare parts

New Delhi: To sustain operational capability of IAF's ageing Jaguar squadrons, India is set to acquire nine decommissioned combat aircraft from the UK to be used as source of spare parts, reports **Surendra Singh**. India's SEPECAT Jaguar fleet, locally nicknamed 'Shamsher', has roughly 120 active aircraft.

No new diploma seats sanctioned for years

▶ Continued from page 1

The regulator said that converting diploma seats into MD/MS seats would help standardise postgraduate training, improve quality and recognition of specialist qualifications, and make better use of existing institutional capacity.

MARB president Prof M K Ramesh said diploma courses have increasingly become redundant, often putting diploma holders at disadvantage. Originally meant to train specialists for district and sub-district facilities, diploma courses have lost relevance as degree-qualified specialists are now available at those levels.

Ramesh said diploma holders face limited career growth, are generally ineligible for teaching positions and promotions, often leaving them at a disadvantage compared to MD/MS graduates. With no new diploma seats sanctioned for years and only about 400 seats remaining in a few specialties, maintaining a parallel diploma stream serves little purpose, he added.

The decision follows provisions incorporated in Post Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 2023, which state that no new applications for starting or increasing diploma seats would be allowed and that institutions may instead seek conversion of diploma seats into degree seats.

Bihar criminal who killed 3 cops gunned down in UP encounter

Sandeep.Rai@timesofindia.com

Meerut: A criminal from Bihar — Lallan Singh — was allegedly shot dead in a fierce gun battle after he was cornered by UP Special Task Force (STF) team on a secluded stretch of the Sarsawa-Nakur Road in Saharanpur district in the early hours of Monday.

Hailing from Samastipur district of Bihar, Singh (35), was wanted in 13 cases across Bihar and UP, including at least seven murders, three of which were of serving cops

Hailing from Anandgolwa village in Samastipur district of Bihar, Singh (35), was wanted in 13 cases across Bihar and UP, including at least seven murders, three of which were of serving police officers. He evaded justice since 2022, when he fled judicial custody along with his two brothers.

According to police, the encounter took place around 3.30am Monday when an STF team spotted two men on a bike near the Sarsawa flyover.

ADG (law and order), Amitabh Yash, said, "When signalled to stop, the duo accelerated and tried to flee down a parallel unmetalled road. Their motorcycle lost control on the uneven stretch, but rather than surrendering, Lallan opened fire, targeting the STF personnel with intent to kill. Two bullets struck the bulletproof jackets of ASP Lal Pratap Singh and inspector Aditya Kumar Singh, who narrowly escaped serious injury. Undeterred, Lallan then pulled out a semi-automatic weapon and resumed firing."

The STF team fired in response. Lallan was hit and collapsed. His associate fled in the dark and remains at large. Lallan was rushed to CHC Sarsawa and then referred to the district hospital.

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/(Co)/Kharagpur-721 301 invites e-tender for the following works and will be opened at 12:00 hrs.: **e-tender Notice No.: ST-OT-DC-TRACK-HITACHI-26 Dtd: 19.06.2026; Description of works:** Provision of DC Track circuit for dual detection (Hitachi make EI) in various station yards of Kharagpur division; **Tender value :** ₹ 9,78,55,589.24; **EMD:** 19,57,100.00; **Cost of tender document :** NIL; **Date of Opening:** 14/07/2026; **Completion Period :** 15 Months; **Date of Submission:** up to 12 hrs. of 14/07/2026; Interested Tenders may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details description specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. (PR-368)

11001/146/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRIGENDUM
HE-MC-MISC-0037-2025/33952/Dt.22.06.2026

In continuation to Tender Call Notice No. **HE-MC-MISC-0037-2025/28348 dated 30.05.2026** for "AI-enabled Exam Security Surveillance and Ancillary Support Services during conduct of multiple examinations", it is hereby informed that :

- **Last date for submission of bids** : 05.07.2026 up to 5:00 PM
- **Opening of Technical Bids** : 06.07.2026 at 11:30 AM

Clarification :

For Section 9 (Sl. No. 5) and Section 10 (Sl. No. 5, 6 & 7), the candidate-count requirement shall be evaluated based on the number of candidates handled by the bidder in a single shift/session of an examination project.

Sd/-
Director, Higher Education
Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0018

25001/492/2627

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No 01 of 2026-27

1. **Name of the Work : Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Packaged Water Treatment Plant with ancillary works for various RPWS scheme in Phiringia, K.Nuagaon, & G.Udayagiri Block.**
(Refer DTCN available in the website: - tendersorissa.gov.in)
2. Total No of work : **4 Nos.**
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs. 90.73 to 200.93 Lakh**
4. Eligible Bidder : **'A' & 'B' Contractor/ Manufacturer / Authorised Distributor / Authorised Dealer**
5. Period of Completion : **06 (Six) months (Refer DTCN available in the Website tendersorissa.gov.in)**
6. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Date & Time for opening of Technical Bid
		From	To	
Superintending Engineer, RWSS Division, Phulbani	01 of 2026-27	Dt. 24.06.2026 At. 10.00 Hrs	Dt. 17.07.2026 Up to 1.30 Hrs	Dt. 18.07.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded in website only.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
RWS&S Division, Phulbani
OIPR-25001/25006/1/26-27/0001

25001/493/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, RAYAGADA
Email ID-ccerwcrayagada@gmail.com
Letter No. 1919 Date: 17.06.2026
1St Corrigendum

In Continuation to this office bid identification No. NCB-08/ RWCRGDA/2026-2027 invited vide this office letter No-1689 dated.26.05.2026 partial modification of TCN has been made as follows:

Sl. No.	Item	Time schedule as per Original TCN	Time schedule as per Corrigendum Notice
1	Availability of tender online for bidding	Dt. 05.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to Dt. 23.06.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M.	Extended up to 5.00 PM of Dt 14.07.2026
2	Date & time of seeking tender clarification if any	Dt. 22.06.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.13.07.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M.
3	Date & time of opening of tender (Technical Bid)	Dt. 24.06.2026 At 11.00 A.M.	Dt.15.07.2026 At 11.00 A.M.
4	Date & time of opening of tender (Price Bid)	Will be intimated later on to the successful bidders	Will be intimated later on to the successful bidders

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
RW Circle, Rayagada
OIPR-25001/25196/1/26-27/0019

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER
Cancellation

Cancellation to the tender vide **NIT No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-45-26 dtd.16.06.2026** published earlier by Divisional Railway Manager, (Engg.), Adra, S.E. Railway. Due to administrative reasons, above mentioned Tender treated as cancelled. (PR-366/C)

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, BANGALORE - 560 064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No.: RWF/M/OT/RTS/ 2026-27/16 Dated 17.06.2026

E-Tender: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** (Works).
Tender No.: RWF/M/OT/RTS/2026-27/16 **Dtd:** 17.06.2026. **Name of the Work:** Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) Service of 3-Ton Forklifts in RT Shop. **Estimated Cost:** Rs. 1,33,77,824.64. **EMD:** Rs. 2,67,600.00 **Completion Period:** 24 Months. **Date of Closing of Tenders:** 09.07.2026 at 10:30 Hrs.
The above Tender details can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in**
DY. CME/AM

Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001 & ISO 50001 Certified Company)
Regd. Office: P.O.Narmadanagar - 392015, Dist.: Bharuch (Gujarat), India
CIN: L24110GJ1976PLC002903, Website: www.gnfc.in

NOTICE FOR SALE OF HYDROCHLORIC ACID (HCL) 30%
INVITING REGISTRATION & PARTICIPATION IN E-AUCTION

GNFC Limited invites interested buyers, traders and end-users across India to participate in a Forward E-Auction for the purchase of Hydrochloric Acid (HCL).
Contract Period: 1 Year
Approximate Total Quantity: 1,50,000 MT (Plant: Bharuch & Dahej, Gujarat)
Auction Platform: For Registration and participation (https://e-auction.nprocure.com).
For detailed information regarding registration, auction schedule and terms & conditions, please visit the e-auction portal or contact the undersigned.
Email: salescoproducts@gnfc.in, Contact no. : 02642-202276 / 02642-203350 / 02642-202289

34001/380/2627

E-mail ID:cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in
cebuildings@rediffmail.com
Tel. (0674)-2391523

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL),
ODISHA NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No-B-I-Tourism-19/2026 Lr. No.- 21279 Bhubaneswar, the 17th June, 2026

Invitation for Bids
Bid Identification No. CE-Bldg-I-13/2026-27

1. The Chief Engineer, Buildings-I, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the works, (1) **"Construction of Kanhakund River Bank, Sundargarh District", (2) "Additional Works for Construction of Mega Destination Tourist Spot for Maa Biraja and Baraha Keshetra at Jajpur" & (3) "Construction of new CHC (G+2) Building at Bhuban, Dhenkanal"** as detailed below.

2.	Nature of work	:	Building Work
3.	No. of work	:	03 Nos.
4.	Bid Cost.	:	Rs. 10,000/-
5.	Class of Contractor	:	'A' / Special
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	From dt.30.06.2026 to 17.00 Hours of dt.15.07.2026.
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt.17.07.2026 at 11:30 AM.
8.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.		

Sd/-
Chief Engineer,
Buildings-I, Odisha
OIPR-34001/34117/1/26-27/0031

10001/297/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF, PUBLIC HEALTH
ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT
Invitation For Bids (IFB) Dtd. 17.06.2026

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Estimated Cost (Approx.) (Rs. In Lakh)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding	
						From	To
1.	Construction of ESR and Other Ancillary Works in connection with the Work Augmentation of Water Supply System along with Ancillary Works for Balangir Town.	EICPH-02/ 2026-27	1534.37	'A' Class & Special Class	09 (Nine) Months	11.00 Hrs. of 24.06.2026	17.00 Hrs. of 17.07.2026

Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid: **The Engineer-In-Chief (PH)**
Office of The Engineer-in-Chief, PH
1st Floor, Unnati Bhawan, Satyanagar,
Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751007.
Phone: # 91-674-2575309, e-mail: eicphodisha@gmail.com

- Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal **"https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in".**
- **All amendments, time extension, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the website only. Bidders should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.**

Sd/-
ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (PH)
OIPR-10001/10243/1/26-27/0002

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 3			
1.	Development of street for people at V-4 Road Sector-15, Chandigarh. Capital Head : Improvement of road \ parking and infrastructure facilities. Est. Cost : Rs. 939.81 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs.18,79,630/- Time Limit :12 Months	22.06.2026 To 29.06.2026 upto 12.00 noon	29.06.2026 at 15.00 PM

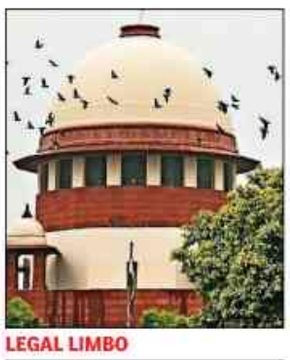
Note:- All other terms and conditions and complete DNIT are uploaded on website https://etenders.chd.nic.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Roads Division No.3, Room No.311 (O) 0172-5021482 xenroad3.mcc@chd.nic.in

SC pulls up CARA for 'obstructionist' approach

Asks It To Take Requisite Steps To Facilitate Adoption Of Girl By Aunt

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com


LEGAL LIMBO

New Delhi: After a 12-year-old girl lost her mother, her US-based maternal aunt and her husband adopted her by performing 'Datta Homam' rituals under Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act (HAMA). That was two years ago. They have since struggled to take their adopted daughter to the US because of conflict between inter-country adoption frameworks of the US and India, leading Supreme Court to frown on India's Central Adoption Resource Agency (CARA) coming in the way of a better future for children who have been adopted by their close relatives based overseas.

The adoptive parents had completed the legal requirements for inter-country adoption of the child through a US govt agency but were told that a clearance in this regard would be needed from India's CARA under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

While the US authorities informed the adoptive parents that the approval for adoption was valid till July 28, 2026, they came to know that children adopted under HAMA would not be recognised by the US as the Indian adoption procedure is not considered legally safe under the 'Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoptions'.

On the other hand, in cases involving inter-country relocation of a child, CARA's office memorandum does not allow adoption procedure under JJ Act and Adoption Regulations, 2022, if a child is adopted under HAMA. CARA thus rejected the adoptive parents' application for approval of adoption under JJ Act.

The catch-22 situation being faced by the US-based couple was conveyed by advocates Noor Shegill and Anuja Pethia to a partial working-day bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi. Shergill said, "The adoptive parents are caught in a bilateral deadlock from which no administrative remedy provides an exit. India will not process the case through JJ Act, and the US will not issue a Hague Adoption Certificate for a HAMA adoption."

With the July-28 deadline drawing close, Shergill's fervent pleas touched a chord as Justice Nagarathna came down heavily on CARA for not approving adoptions through HAMA.

"This is all bureaucratic red tapism. If after inquiry the HAMA adoption is found to be in order, what is the problem in issuing no objection by CARA?" she wondered.

Justice Nagarathna recalled another case in which the father's sister wanted to take motherless twins to the UK, but all obstacles were put in her way.

"We had to ask your officer to be present in court. Why do you adopt such an obstructionist approach when close relatives are adopting a motherless child?" she asked.

"Why are you coming in the way of a child having a better future? Why are you taking a negative stand in the matter?" the bench asked and posted the matter for further hearing on July 14 with a directive: "In the meanwhile, requisite steps that are necessary for processing the application filed by petitioners shall be taken by the respondents without prejudice to their contention in this writ petition."

Personal liberty can't override interests of society: HC

Vaibhav.Ganjapure
@timesofindia.com

Nagpur: Observing that personal liberty cannot override the broader interests of society, Nagpur bench of Bombay high court recently denied bail to a Chandrapur murder accused with multiple serious criminal cases, despite his prolonged incarceration and delay in trial.

Justice MM Nerlikar rejected bail application filed by the murder accused, who has been in jail since Jan 26, 2024, in connection with a murder case registered at Ramnagar police station in Chandrapur.

The court acknowledged that the accused remained behind bars for more than two years and four months and that charges were yet to be framed. However, the bench held that the accused's extensive criminal antecedents and repeated involvement in violent offences outweighed his plea seeking protection under Article 21.

"Personal liberty is a cherished constitutional value, but it is not absolute. No individual can assert a freedom that imperils the life or liberty of others," it observed in its order. The prosecution alleged that disputes arose between them over a two-wheeler purchased in the deceased's name and unpaid loan instalments.

Ram temple donation row: HC refuses priority hearing

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: A Lucknow bench of Allahabad high court Monday refused to hear an out-of-turn plea seeking probe into the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. A vacation bench of Justices Pankaj Bhatia and Amitabh Kumar Rai said there was no urgency as the Uttar Pradesh govt had already shown indulgence in the case.

The court's oral observation came on a petition moved by Mohit Ashok.

When the petitioner pointed to the bench about the issue and its urgency, the court turned down the request saying it was already seized up with several cases and, therefore, there was no occasion or urgency to take up the matter out of turn. The bench orally commented that since the state govt had already shown indulgence in the matter, there was no urgency as such.

Perfumery and Aromatic Research & Development Institute (PARDI)
(Formerly known as Centre for Aromantic Plants)
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Uttarakhand)
Industrial Estate, Selaqui-248011, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Telefax:- 0135-2698305, Email: cap.dun@gmail.com
Date 22-06-2026
Extension of last date
Due to Unavoidable circumstances the last date for submission of applications for recruitment of Scientist 'C' (Chemistry) vide advertisement No. 03/CAP/2026-27 dt. 23-05-2026 now has been extended till 08th July, 2026 upto 5:00 PM. The applicants who have already applied for the above post need not to apply afresh. For detailed information institute s website www.capuk.in may kindly be visited.
Director

HC asks warring neighbours to settle row over tea

Abhilash.R@timesofindia.com

Kochi: Tree trouble climbed all the way to Kerala high court. Then the judge asked 2 feuding neighbours in Thiruvananthapuram to come down to earth — over tea or coffee.

HC recently urged the neighbours to settle their 3-year-old legal dispute over a leaning coconut tree, saying egos had proved less flexible than the tree itself. "Love thy neighbour as yourself," Justice P V Kunhikrishnan said, borrowing from scripture rather than law while asking both sides to bury the hatchet.

Petitioner from Karakulam neighbourhood had moved HC claiming a coconut tree on his neighbour's land leaned towards his property and endangered his family. He said coconuts falling on neighbour's car porch could bounce into his compound and damage 2 cars parked along the boundary. His complaints to revenue authorities, panchayat and ombudsman for local self-govt institutions had brought no relief, he said.

दिल्ली प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय
DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
(Formerly Delhi College of Engineering)
Centre for Technology Enhanced Learning (CTEL) – Digital Education

Centre for Technology Enhanced Learning (CTEL), DTU invites Applications for Online Certificate programs for working Professionals

The centre aims to provide short-term capacity building courses in digital mode, designed by university faculty members. The objective is to bridge the gap between industry requirements and workforce skill sets by leveraging the knowledge and experience of university faculty to create comprehensive, engaging, and industry ready courses.
The following courses will be starting soon
1. **Advanced Certificate Program in Artificial Intelligence.**
2. **Leadership Program in CSR, ESG & Corporate Sustainability.**
3. **Advanced Programme in Renewable & Sustainable Energy Management.**

Admission procedure and online application forms are available on the University Website **https://cteldtu.com/programmes#certificate**. Candidates are required to fill the online application form.

Maharashtra State Cashew Council (MSCC)
C/o, MSAMB, R-7, Market Yard, Gultekadi, Pune - 411037,
Ph: 020-24528100 / 24528200, Web: www.msamb.com.
email: cashewcouncil@msamb.com
Inviting applications for the post of General Manager
MSCC invites applications from eligible candidates for the post of 'General Manager' on contractual basis with maximum consolidated pay of Rs 1.50 lakh per month. Qualification details, Application format and further details are available on website: www.msamb.com. The last date for submission of application in hard copy is 07/07/2026 at 18.00 Hrs. MSCC reserves the all rights regarding selection process.
Chief Executive Officer

SBI | STATE BANK OF INDIA
Stressed Assets Management Branch, Ahmedabad-380006
COMMERCIAL PLOTS @ L P SAVANI ROAD, ADAJAN & PAL, SURAT
FOR SALE (under SARFAESI) (Auction Date: 26.06.2026)

Property Details	Reserve Price
Commercial Plot Wonder 7: TP Scheme 31, Part 1, Final Plot No 54, Area 5199 Sq Mts and Part -2, Final Plot No 53, Area 1795 Sq Mts @ L P Savani Road, Surat. **Total area of the land 6994 Sq Mts (Physical Possession)**	Rs. 76.15 Cr
Commercial Plot: TP Scheme 16 @ Pal, Surat. Area 4626 Sq Mts. **(Physical Possession)**	Rs. 45.82 Cr
For More Details https://baanknet.com or Please contact or Scan	Ph 9824275526, 9440780127

केन्द्रीय हिमालयीय संस्कृति शिक्षण संस्थान
Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies
Dahung: West Kameng District: Arunachal Pradesh -790116
Website: www.cihcs.edu.in, email: cihcsoffice@gmail.com
(An Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)
Advt. No. 3-313/2026/CIHCS/12
CIHCS, Dahung invites applications for 03 posts of Assistant Professor: Bhot Boudh Shastra (01-OBC), Bhoti (Tibetan) (01-UR) and English (01- OBC). Details regarding eligibility, age limit and application form are available at **www.cihcs.edu.in.** Last date: 06.08.2026.
Sd/-
Administrative-cum-Accounts Officer
CIHCS, Dahung

Government of India
Ministry of Minority Affairs
HAJ COMMITTEE OF INDIA
ANNOUNCEMENT FOR HAJ – 2027 G (1448 H)
The Haj Committee of India invites applications from eligible intending pilgrims for Haj–2027 through the online Haj Application Form available at **https://www.hajcommittee.gov.in** or HAJ SUVIDHA mobile app.
2. The application window shall remain open from 22.06.2026 to 20.07.2026 (up to 11:59 PM). After Qurrah (Digital Random Selection) process to be conducted in the last week of July, each provisionally selected pilgrim shall be required to deposit an advance amount of ₹1,52,300/- on or before 10.08.2026. No relaxation or extension in these timelines shall be feasible.
3. Applicants must carefully read the Guidelines and Undertakings to ensure their eligibility and upload scanned copies (not photographs) of required documents as specified in the Guidelines.
4. Cancellation of a Haj seat is strongly discouraged, as it causes operational difficulties. Accordingly, cancellation shall attract substantial penalties in accordance with the Guidelines for Haj 2027. Intending pilgrims are advised to apply only after careful consideration of their preparedness and firm commitment to undertake the pilgrimage.
Shanavas C, IAS
Chief Executive Officer

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052
No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/11/2026-27 Date: 22.06.2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)
The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the works mention in the below table.

Sl. No.	Package Name	Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs Including GST)	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Contract Completion Period (Including Monsoon Period)
1	Construction of MRF sheds at **Doddabidarakallu (Package –P1).**	**2090.00**	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs. 19,90,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank.	09 Months
2	Construction of MRF shed at **Subbarayanapalya. (Package –P2).**	**1369.00**	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs. 14,00,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank.	09 Months
3	Construction of MRF sheds at **Tarahunase (Package – P3)**	**4800.00**	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs. 47,00,000/-** by Bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank.	09 Months

1) Last date for uploading Pre-bid Queries : **28.06.2026 before 16.00 hrs. 2)** Tender Pre-Bid meeting : **29.06.2026 at 15:00hrs.** at above mentioned office. **3)** Last Date of Receipt of Tender: **05.07.2026 upto 16:00 hrs. 4)** Opening of Technical Bid: **06.07.2026 at 16:30 hrs.**
More details can be downloaded from website - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML
DIPR/CP/JA/1298/2026-27

The king who gave up his throne for love returns in a Ravi Varma

A portrait of Martanda Bhairava by the celebrated painter is up for auction today. Behind it is the story of a royal ahead of his times who had to leave India after marrying an Aus socialite

Kamini.Mathai
@timesofindia.com

A Raja Ravi Varma portrait from close to 150 years ago that's coming up for auction today brings alive once more the story of its remarkable subject, Raja Martanda Bhairava Tondaiman of the erstwhile kingdom of Pudukkottai in central Tamil Nadu.

A Ravi Varma work, 'Yashoda and Krishna', just set the record for the most expensive modern Indian painting when it was picked up for over Rs 167 crore by Cyrus Poonawalla of Serum Institute. Which is why all eyes are on what the 'Little Prince of Courage' — as the portrait, made when Martanda was all of 10 years old, is called — fetches when it goes under the hammer. Owned by a private collector, it has a base price of Rs 20 crore in the auction organised by Mumbai-based AstaGuru Auction House.

But the painting captures more than just a young royal in all his splendour. It also turns the spotlight on a kingdom ahead of its time, a royal scandal, an extraordinary act of allegiance, and a raja who walked away from it all for his 'maharani from Melbourne'.

Photos: Wikimedia, Facebook

Molly Fink

The portrait of Martanda Bhairava has a base price of Rs 20 crore. It was made when the Pudukkottai royal was about 10 years old

Martanda Bhairava met Fink on a visit to Australia in 1915

More than two decades before Britain's Edward VIII (inset) gave up his crown to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson, Pudukkottai ruler Martanda Bhairava abdicated after the British refused to recognise his marriage to Australian Molly Fink

Raja & Rani

Martanda was born in 1875 and ascended the throne, still very much a child, in 1886, says A Manikandan, research scholar at the department of ancient science, Tamil University in Thanjavur. "The British initially supervised the kingdom's administration. When Raja Martanda assumed full powers, he was a progressive ruler. He introduced electricity, improved roads, launched public health initiatives and created modern civic infrastructure in Pudukkottai. He also established a library, the building that now houses the Government Museum," says Manikandan.

On a visit to Australia in 1915, the 40-year-old "dashing" but single Martanda met the golden-haired "society beauty, with blue eyes and pouting pomegranate lips", Esme Mary Sorrett (Molly) Fink of Melbourne.

The two married that year, say her biographers Edward Duyker and Coralie Younger. But though Molly was received enthusiastically by the people of Pudukkottai, the British refused to recognise the union. There was even an attempt to poison her with 'arali' (oleander leaves) when it was discovered she was pregnant. Martanda took Molly to Ooty, but was not allowed permission to buy a house there. The disheartened couple left India. They had a child, whom they named Sydney, but when it became clear that neither would the British acknowledge him as the heir, Martanda abdicated and accepted financial compensation.

His grand-nephew, Brahadambadas Rajah Rajagopala Tondaiman, succeeded him as the Raja of Pudukkottai, the dynasty's last ruler. Martanda died in 1928, aged about 52, and was cremated with Hindu rites in London, after Molly was refused permission to fly his remains to India.

The Dynasty

"What was unique about the Tondaiman dynasty (1686-1948) was that it created a democratic structure of governance," says Manikandan. "Even before Independence, they had representative bodies where local leaders, merchants and scholars participated in discussions. They also established a legislative assembly and introduced social welfare schemes. "Faced with drought, they created a scheme similar to MGNREGA."

As the tide of empire turned and the British prepared to leave, the Tondaimans were among the first princely rulers to join the Indian Union.

"My father didn't just accede to the Indian Union; he handed over all the money in the royal treasury as well. The entire Rs 57 lakh," says Rajagopal Tondaiman, adopted son of Rajah Rajagopala. "He signed the agreement with a gold pen, which he also left behind on the table. When home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel tried to return it, he refused, saying it too belonged to the people of Pudukkottai."

The 'Little Prince' portrait used to hang at Rajagopal's mother's home in Pudukkottai, called the Residency, before it was sold to a private collector. An 1886 Ravi Varma portrait of Rajagopal's great-grand-aunt, Janaki Subamma Bai, still hangs in his living room. "Ravi Varma painted her holding a fan. I suppose it was to symbolise the tradition of the queens," says Rajagopal. "Just as he painted the young Martanda with a clock."

The Clock

For art historian Ganesh V Shivaswamy, the garish gold European-style clock is what stands out, almost incongruously, in the 'Little Prince of Courage'. The painting, he says, belongs to the artist's earlier period. "The brushstrokes are more static and make the work resemble a photograph pasted onto a frame, unlike the fluid brushwork that characterises his later paintings."

Shivaswamy says the painting is part of a series of portraits for the Pudukottai Royal Commission, the artist's first such commission. This is the first time the portrait, 50inx42in, is appearing at an auction. "What makes the painting exceptional is that it captures a child carrying the full ceremonial weight of a dynasty, yet the artist never loses sight of the boy beneath the regalia," says Sunny Chandiramani of AstaGuru.

Shivaswamy adds that "the painting may also symbolise the beginning of a cultural synthesis". "This was a period when Indian princes were wearing European suits, speaking English and bringing modern gadgets into their courts. The clock is the equivalent, in those days I suppose, of having the latest iPhone, a way to signal, 'I have arrived'."

AI image

How this gravy grievance has become a grave rights battle

Alaka.Dhupkar
@timesofindia.com

If you order a plate of porotta and beef fry at a Kerala eatery, is there a tacit understanding that you'd also be served gravy? In other words, is a denial of gravy with porotta in contravention of a customary and popular practice — and, thus, violative of a consumer's rights?

That is the vexed question that a district consumer forum in Kerala is set to decide next month. At the heart of the matter is the sheer doggedness of 58-year-old lawyer Shibu S Vayalakath over a "dry" meal he had been served nearly two years ago. More importantly, it's become a case with a much wider implication, say some lawyers, graver than just the question of missing gravy: the right of a consumer to be heard.

On Nov 9, 2024, Vayalakath and a friend had ordered the popular Malayali combo of porotta and beef fry at The Persian Table restaurant in Kochi. The two items arrived, but what never came with it was the gravy that's often served alongside.

The two friends requested their server, even escalating the matter with the restaurant owner, but were denied gravy. The restaurant told them they did not serve it with the combo.

For most people, the matter would have ended there, but Vayalakath — who was then about 56 years old then and studying to be a lawyer — did not let it go. In April 2025, he took the matter up with the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Ernakulam, arguing that gravy was "a reasonable right of consumers". The logic was simple: he had had the combo all his life across Kerala, but this was the first time that an eatery had denied him gravy — with or without extra payment, the practice at some places. Vayalakath sought Rs 1 lakh as compensation for "mental distress" and "humiliation" and Rs 10,000 towards legal expenses.

In May 2025, the district forum summarily rejected his case, saying "there was no express or implied contractual obligation to provide gravy along with the ordered food."

Shibu S Vayalakath says he could not simply let the missing gravy slide, as it became a matter of fighting for the rights of Kerala's ordinary citizens

Vayalakath moved the state commission, which referred the matter back to the district forum, saying the complaint against the restaurant couldn't be dismissed summarily; it deserved a proper hearing.

The district forum will rehear the case on July 8. Vayalakath says local media had interpreted the 2025 order as "gravy is not a consumer right", and many local eateries started refusing it. "It was the poor, the working class and students who were affected the most. I decided to continue the fight for ordinary people in Kerala, who were being denied what they always considered part of the meal."

One of the observations of the bench, made on June 5 while setting aside the district commission's 2025 order, has attracted wide attention. It held that a custom may become relevant if it is "uniform", "long-standing" and accepted by both businesses and consumers. Whether such a custom exists regarding gravy required evidence.

The state commission also observed that the district commission had failed to adopt a "pro-consumer approach".

M S Kamath, honorary secretary of India's first consumer rights NGO, Consumer Guidance Society of India (CGSI), said both sides seemed to have valid arguments.

"When we order biryani, we expect papad and raita," he said. "But can such an expectation become a legal obligation for a restaurant that has not advertised or promised these complimentary side dishes?"

Viraj Patil, an advocate at Bombay HC, said the judgment reinforces a "basic principle of justice". "Courts and tribunals", he felt, "should decide disputes after hearing the parties and evaluating evidence. The complainant has not yet won, but he has secured something equally important: the right to be heard." Aditya Pratap, another lawyer, felt the state forum's approach was "unique", appearing to have "gone beyond the letter of the law." Vayalakath says he is prepared for the long fight: "If the [July 8] decision goes against me, I will re-approach the state commission, then the national commission. If needed, I will even consider moving Supreme Court."

Almost 60% of cases involving online fraud and forgery were registered in the five southern states. Greater digital adoption combined with stronger reporting may be the reason

WHY SOUTH INDIA LOGS IN MORE CYBERCRIME

M Srinivasan

Six of 10 cybercrime cases registered in India now come from just the southern states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana, as per the National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) 2024 report released in May. Are southern states facing a cybercrime epidemic, or are they simply better at detecting and recording offences that go unreported elsewhere in India?

An overview of the rate and incidence of cybercrime over three years shows a steady increase in the overall incidence and the rate (crimes reported per one lakh population). The increase may be because of the addition of new provisions in the Indian Penal Code (IPC)/ Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) to capture emerging forms of cybercrime; creation of new heads in the "crime in India 2024 report" using existing provisions in the IT Act; contribution of southern states to overall incidence of cybercrime and share of some crimes such as fraud, cheating and forgery to cybercrime in the country.

BNS, which came into force on July 1, 2024, introduced provisions that addressed emerging forms of cybercrime, such as sexual intercourse by deceitful means, organized cybercrime and publishing false or misleading information that jeopardizes the sovereignty, unity and integrity or security of India. The number of cases registered under these provisions was 99, 60 and 2, which indicates that BNS does not really help register a high number of cases. These additions, though, may facilitate the registration of cases in the future.

A couple of new crime categories were found in the 2024 report that were not included in the reports released in previous years. These crime heads reflect the provisions of the IT Act, 2000, namely, breach of confidentiality and privacy and publication of an electronic signature for fraudulent purposes. Only 37 and five cases were registered under these categories in 2024. While the numbers are small, the inclusion of new classifications should be considered when interpreting year-on-year changes in cybercrime statistics.

The most striking feature of the NCRB data is the concentration of cybercrime in southern India. Cybercrime cases across India rose steadily from about 65,000 in 2022 to 86,000 in 2023 and 1.1 lakh in 2024. Telangana recorded the highest incidence, with cases increasing from 18,000 in 2023 to 27,000 in 2024. Karnataka followed with 21,993 cases and a crime rate of 32.2. Tamil Nadu was among the lowest of the southern states recording an increase from 2,000 in 2022 to 6,000 in 2024, but its cybercrime rate rose from 47.8 to 71.1 per lakh population over the same period. Together, the southern states recorded 60,506 cases in 2024, accounting for 60% of cybercrime cases registered in the country.

The concentration becomes more significant when viewed against national trends. While India added 15,508 cybercrime cases between 2023 and 2024, a substantial share of that increase came from southern states, particularly Telangana and Tamil Nadu. The growth in cybercrime is not spread evenly across offence categories; it is largely driven by fraud-related offences.

Southern states accounted for 79.2% of all cheating-by-personation cases registered in India, 68.1% of fraud cases and 58.1% of cheating cases. There were also notable variations between states. In Karnataka, cheating by personation constituted the majority of cybercrime cases, while in Telangana, fraud cases dominated the statistics. In Tamil Nadu and Kerala as well, fraud and cheating-related offences accounted for a substantial share of overall cybercrime.

Crime data is gathered to understand why and how crime occurs and to inform policy responses to reduce offences and consequences. So, why do victims exhibit poor reporting behaviour, or why are they hesitant to report their victimization to the agencies of the criminal justice system, particularly police? The answer could be fear of poor treatment at police stations or lack of faith in the system.

The low incidence of crime can also be due to non-registration of cases. Police have the unreasonable fear that an increase in crime in a given jurisdiction would be taken as an indicator of poor performance. In truth, it is the other way around. If the system is responsive to public needs, victims will be encouraged to report. High reporting may be considered an indicator of good performance!

A 2019 study in the Netherlands, of 97,000 victims, compared associations between victim characteristics and crime-reporting behaviour for cybercrime versus traditional crimes. Findings showed cybercrimes were among the least reported types of crime.

Crime rate and incidence are the result of dynamic changes occurring in various spheres – social, economic, cultural and political. In the case of cybercrime, additional influences include the scale of digital transactions, internet usage, social media engagement and online financial activity.

Viewed in this light, the disproportionately high incidence of cybercrime in southern states may reflect both greater exposure to digital risks and a greater willingness or ability to report such offences. The challenge for policymakers is to determine how much of the increase represents rising criminal activity and how much reflects improvements in detection and reporting.

(The writer is professor, department of criminology at University of Madras)

SOUTHERN STATES VS INDIA (BETWEEN 2022 AND 2024)
INCIDENCE & RATE OF CYBERCRIME

States	2022		2023		2024	
	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate	Incidence	Rate
Andhra Pradesh	2,341	4.4	2,341	4.4	2,528	4.7
Karnataka	12,556	18.6	21,889	32.3	21,993	32.2
Kerala	773	2.2	3,295	9.2	2,962	8.2
Tamil Nadu	**2,082**	**2.7**	**4,121**	**5.4**	**5,793**	**7.5**
Telangana	15,297	40.3	18,236	47.8	27,230	71.1
Southern States total	**33,049**	**–**	**49,882**	**–**	**60,506**	**–**
ALL INDIA	**65,893**	**4.8**	**86,420**	**6.2**	**1,01,928**	**7.3**

CASES REGISTERED UNDER CHEATING, FRAUD & FORGERY (2024)

States	IT Act		IPC/BNS		TOTAL
	Cheating by personation (A)	Fraud (B)	Cheating (C)	Forgery (D)	(A+B+C+D)
Andhra Pradesh	219	593	750	9	1,031
Karnataka	20,099	0	5	0	20,104
Kerala	1,012	86	1,351	6	2,455
Tamil Nadu	**2,071**	**684**	**2,411**	**27**	**5,193**
Telangana	23	18,922	6,706	41	25,692
Southern States total	**23,424**	**20,285**	**11,223**	**83**	**54,475**
All India total	**29,557**	**29,758**	**19,296**	**702**	**79,313**

'Decision based on its subjective satisfaction'

▸ Continued from page 1

Malhotra's counsel Balbir Singh said the SC in its Sept 6, 2024 judgment had disapproved Himachal HC CJ's unilateral decision to ignore the candidature of two senior judicial officers, including Malhotra, and had said selection has to be done collectively by the collegium and not individually by the CJI. Singh said the collegium did not consider Malhotra's candidature and responses.

The bench said the collegium's decision is based on its subjective satisfaction and neither the HC nor the SC can fault it by taking up petitions and issuing directions (on recommending one candidate or the other). "The issue of selection of candidates for appointment of judges to constitutional courts is neither amenable to judicial scrutiny nor comes under the ambit of RTI Act," it said.

When Malhotra complained that judicial officers who were junior to him had been recommended for elevation, the bench said, "It is a question of suitability as assessed by the collegium. Recommending a junior officer does not give a cause of action to a person to challenge the recommendations through a writ petition. Merely because of seniority, one is not entitled to elevation."

On June 2, the SC collegium, after considering the HP HC collegium recommendations and interacting with recommended persons, had approved appointment of three judicial officers – Chirag Bhanu Singh, Bhupesh Sharma and Yogesh Jaswal – as judges of the HC.

Justices Nagarathna and Bagchi said the best it can do is give liberty to Malhotra to represent to the HC to expeditiously complete the pending inquiry process. It also had a word of advice for Malhotra: "you are young and should wait".

The bench said the HC collegium recommendation has been approved by the SC collegium after considering all material provided by the HC and the govt, which leaves no scope for interference in it by the SC on the judicial side. "Once the SC collegium approves it, we cannot enter into a debate on its correctness on the judicial side," the bench said.

In its order, the bench disposed of the petition after giving liberty to Malhotra "to seek appropriate reliefs before the competent authority of the HC on the administrative side or by seeking remedies on judicial side".

Bike crashes, man & 2 minor daughters fall off flyover

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Three people, including two minor girls, of a family were injured after falling off the Geeta Colony flyover when their motorcycle crashed into the boundary wall Monday afternoon. One of the girls is critically injured, police said.

A senior police officer said that they received information regarding the accident, which took place near the CNG pump, at 1.46 pm.

The injured man has been identified as Ashish, while the two girls, Rubi (12) and Mansi (11), are his daughters. The trio was going from northeast Delhi's Sonia Vihar to Daryaganj at the time of the incident. Ashish works as a painter.

"The vehicle was moving at a considerable speed and it suddenly came in contact with a speed breaker, causing it to lose balance. The motorcycle rammed the divider and they fell due to the impact," said the police officer. The fall was from the height of around 20 feet.

Visuals from the busy flyover showed a helmet lodged into a railing while shattered pieces of the vehicle were seen lying on the concrete.

Cop on duty dragged under car in Delhi, woman apprehended

New Delhi: A 19-year-old student has been apprehended for hitting a Delhi Police constable with her sedan and critically injuring him while he was on duty in northwest Delhi's Ashok Vihar.

Police said the woman hit the constable's motorcycle, ran over his legs and stopped only after the bike and the police officer got stuck beneath her car. Police said the woman was also found to be driving without a valid licence.

Police said further investigation is under way to ascertain all circumstances surrounding the accident. TNN

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL — SANDEEP ADHWARYU

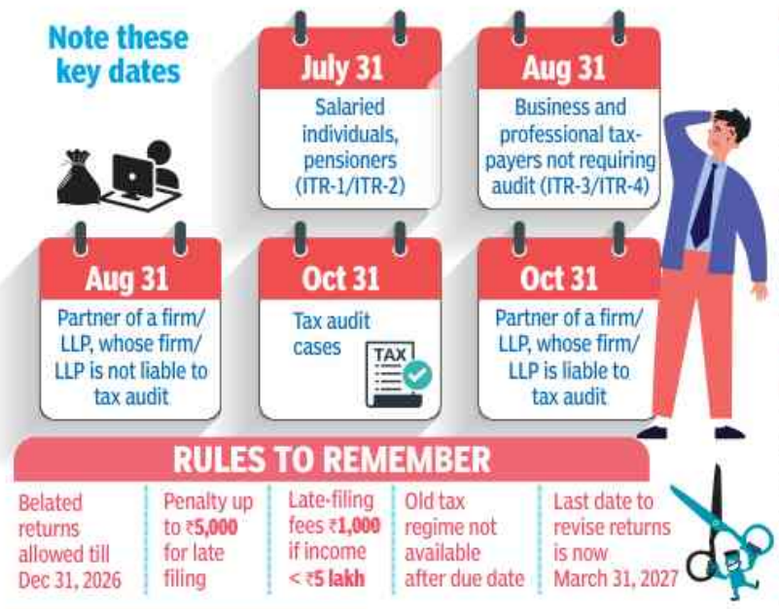
Income mismatch to incorrect form: 7 mistakes to avoid this ITR season

Preeti.Kulkarni@timesofindia.com

For most taxpayers, filing an income tax return (ITR) is an annual ritual that is tedious but unavoidable. Despite the income tax (I-T) department's efforts to simplify the process with prefilled return forms and the Annual Information Statement (AIS) — a summary of income earned and specified financial transactions during the year that serves as a verification tool — data-driven scrutiny using artificial intelligence (AI) and other tools has become stricter, leaving little room for error.

For taxpayers, this necessitates filing income tax returns with more care than ever. "The ITR forms for financial year 2025-26 (assessment year 2026-27) introduce a mix of eligibility relaxations and tighter disclosure norms. While the changes aim to simplify filing for small taxpayers, they simultaneously deepen reporting requirements, reflecting the administration's continued push for data-driven compliance," says Sudhakar Sethuraman, Partner, Deloitte India.

Since June is when salaried individuals receive their Forms 16, it is best to file returns early instead of waiting until July 31. This helps avoid the technical glitches that often plague the ITR e-filing portal *(incometax.gov.in)* near the deadline and reduces the risk of last-minute errors. Here are seven mistakes taxpayers should avoid:



Source: Deloitte India

Changes to remember...

- Income of up to **Rs 12 lakh**? No tax outgo under the new regime
- Salaried taxpayers, pensioners pay no tax up to **Rs 12.75 lakh**
- New regime: Exemption limit raised to **Rs 4 lakh**; I-T slabs liberalised
- Earning over **Rs 25 lakh** or more? Old regime beneficial only if deductions **>Rs 8 lakh** + standard deduction
- HRA remains the needle-mover in old vs new regime selection
- Tax deducted at source (TDS) will now apply for rent over **Rs 50,000** per month
- Salaried taxpayers can switch between the two regimes every year

1 Claiming deductions not backed by proof

Over the past three years, several salaried taxpayers have found themselves facing I-T queries seeking proof of deductions claimed in ITR forms. These include notices on wrongful house rent allowance (HRA) claims, unverified donations, undisclosed foreign assets and property transactions. "Taxpayers claiming HRA, particularly where rent is paid to parents, should maintain proper agreements, payment evidence and supporting records to substantiate the claims, if questioned," says Mayank Mohanka, Founder, TaxAaram.com.

Your parents, in such cases, must declare this rental income in their ITR. The forms also tightened compliance requirements for claiming exemptions on donations made. "Taxpayers claiming donation-related deductions must now furnish additional details such as transaction reference number for donations under Section 80G, and the name and permanent account number (PAN) of the political party for claims under Section 80GGC," says Archit Gupta, Founder and CEO, ClearTax.

2 Not verifying AIS, Form 26AS

The first step of your return-filing exercise should start with scrutinising AIS and Form 26AS (tax credit statement), which can be accessed through the e-filing portal.

Sethuraman says the failure to reconcile income reported in the returns with data available in these statements is a common error that taxpayers tend to make. "Even minor discrepancies can result in automated notices. It is, therefore, critical to review AIS well in advance, provide feedback on incorrect entries (on the e-filing portal), and ensure that the final return is fully aligned with reported third-party data," he says.

To be sure, AIS is not yet error-free; it is routine to come across data mismatches and duplication due to multiple reasons, including incomplete reporting by financial institutions such as banks. "At times, the pre-filled data in the ITR does not reconcile with Form 26AS, making it necessary for taxpayers to carefully review and validate the information prior to filing," adds Shalini Jain, Tax Partner, EY India.

So, you can verify the data and rely on your own records as long as you maintain supporting documents to substantiate your claims should queries arise.

3 Using incorrect ITR form

If you file your return using the wrong ITR form, it will be treated as defective. "Using an incorrect ITR form or failing to furnish mandatory disclosures, incomplete reporting of donations, political contributions, tax regime options or financial particulars can trigger avoidable queries and scrutiny," adds Mohanka. For example, if you use ITR-1 (Sahaj) instead of ITR-2 despite owning assets overseas, you will not be able to disclose the same, resulting in I-T queries in the future.

4 Not declaring all income sources

You must disclose all sources of income, including foreign income and assets and make disclosures in ITR forms' schedule FA. "The I-T department can see discrepancies by matching information from banks, TDS statements, credit card transactions and other reporting sources. Ensure that you accurately report all income, including capital gains, exempt income and foreign assets wherever applicable," says Gupta.

5 Incomplete capital gains reporting

Many taxpayers tend to find capital gains disclosure cumbersome. "Some fail to correctly categorise gains as short- or long-term or overlook the need to segregate transactions based on regulatory cut-off dates," says Sethuraman. July 23, 2024, remains a crucial date as the capital gains structure for all asset classes was revamped in Budget 2024.

"Investors should reconcile broker as well as mutual fund statements and AIS before finalising their returns," says Mohanka.

Many also overlook set-off and carry-forward rules, leading to either excess tax payment or future disallowances. "Inadequate reporting of trading activity, especially in derivatives, intraday transactions or buyback losses, can lead to under-reporting or misclassification of income," Sethuraman adds. It might be a tedious task, but you must pore over all your financial statements carefully.

6 Delaying return filing beyond due date

Individual taxpayers — salaried individuals and pensioners using ITR-1 and ITR-2 — have to file their returns by July 31, 2026. However, Budget 2026 introduced another due date, Aug 31, for individuals who do not require tax audit but use ITR-3 and ITR-4 (Sugam). Failure to file returns by the due dates would mean having to shell out late filing fees of Rs 5,000 (Rs 1,000 if your income is less than Rs 5 lakh). The fee will also apply to revised returns, for which the deadline is now March 31.

7 Not verifying returns

"You must complete the verification of the ITR within the prescribed timeline (30 days) after filing to ensure the return is treated as valid," points out Jain. It is best to verify your returns electronically on the e-filing portal soon after submission.

Bitcoin's 50% crash: Buy the dip or stay away?

Abhinav.Kaul@timesofindia.com

Bitcoin has crashed nearly 50% from its Oct 2025 peak of $125,000 to around $65,000 last week, with the latest leg down triggered by its slide from $80,000 in May 2026. Geopolitical tensions, rate uncertainty and a broader pullback from risky assets are driving the selloff, says Prateek Gupta, Head of Business, Mudrex, who notes crypto behaves as a risk-on asset that investors shed when uncertainty rises. But before buying the dip, investors must weigh volatility, unclear cycles and crypto's unfavourable tax treatment.

The bigger question is whether the current decline represents a normal correction or the beginning of a deeper bear market.

Prateek Gupta believes the market is already in a downtrend but does not expect Bitcoin to fall substantially further. He identifies $60,000 and $55,000 as important support levels and says a fall below $55,000 could theoretically push prices towards $40,000, although he does not consider that a likely outcome. He believes there are signs of a reversal emerging after Bitcoin successfully held around the $60,000 mark.

Gracy Chen, CEO of Bitget, has a cautious view. While she remains positive on Bitcoin over the long term, she warns that cryptocurrency could still witness a steep decline towards the $50,000 range in the near term.

"The growing presence of institutional capital has made market behaviour less predictable than in earlier cycles," she argues. The bullish camp focuses on longer-term adoption trends. Sumit Gupta, Co-Founder of CoinDCX, argues that the broader fundamentals remain intact, citing continued institutional participation, increasing corporate adoption and growing recognition of Bitcoin as a store of value.

For those who already own crypto, the appropriate response depends on how large that exposure has become relative to the rest of your portfolio.

If crypto is already less than 5-10% of your overall portfolio, the advice is straightforward: stay disciplined and avoid panic selling. If, however, Bitcoin's rally over the past few years pushed your crypto holdings to 20-30% of your wealth, this is the moment to rebalance, book partial profits, bring the allocation back to your original target, and resist the temptation to hold on in expectation of an immediate return to $125,000.

For those considering entering for the first time, the experts are broadly aligned on approach, if not on enthusiasm.

"I would suggest starting with the large caps of crypto, Bitcoin and Ethereum," says Vikram Subburaj, CEO of Giottus. "Stick to that, invest there and, when you understand crypto better, decide if you want to invest further. Crypto is still an unregulated space. It is not illegal, but there are a lot of scammers. Whatever amount you can invest and manage yourself, that is what you should be doing."

Prateek Gupta says, "One should invest through a systematic investment plan (SIP), follow a dollar-cost averaging approach, and keep investing every week or every month at a fixed frequency. That makes you relatively immune to price movements."

Bitcoin's 50% correction may prove to be a temporary setback, or it could become part of a longer and deeper downturn. What investors must know is that crypto remains one of the riskiest assets available to retail investors.

There is also no investor protection framework. If an exchange fails or a token collapses, there is no regulator, no compensation fund, and no grievance redressal mechanism comparable to what exists in regulated markets. Therefore, proceed with caution, and only after understanding what you are getting into.

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ASK THE EXPERTS

My son and daughter are US passport holders with OCI cards. They are currently employed in India. How will they file their tax? I have heard about FBAR reporting — does it apply to them?
— L Srinivasan

US citizens residing in India are generally required to file income tax returns in India as tax residents, reporting their global income. They must also obtain a US Social Security Number (SSN) and file mandatory US federal tax returns (Form 1040) in compliance with the US tax laws. Double taxation is prevented through mechanisms like the Foreign Tax Credit (FTC) and the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion (FEIE), which allows an individual to legally exclude foreign-earned income up to a certain threshold. However, these legal reliefs are not automatic; a US tax return must be filed to claim them. Additionally, the individuals must file an annual FBAR report if their combined Indian financial account balances exceed USD 10,000, as non-compliance carries severe penalties.

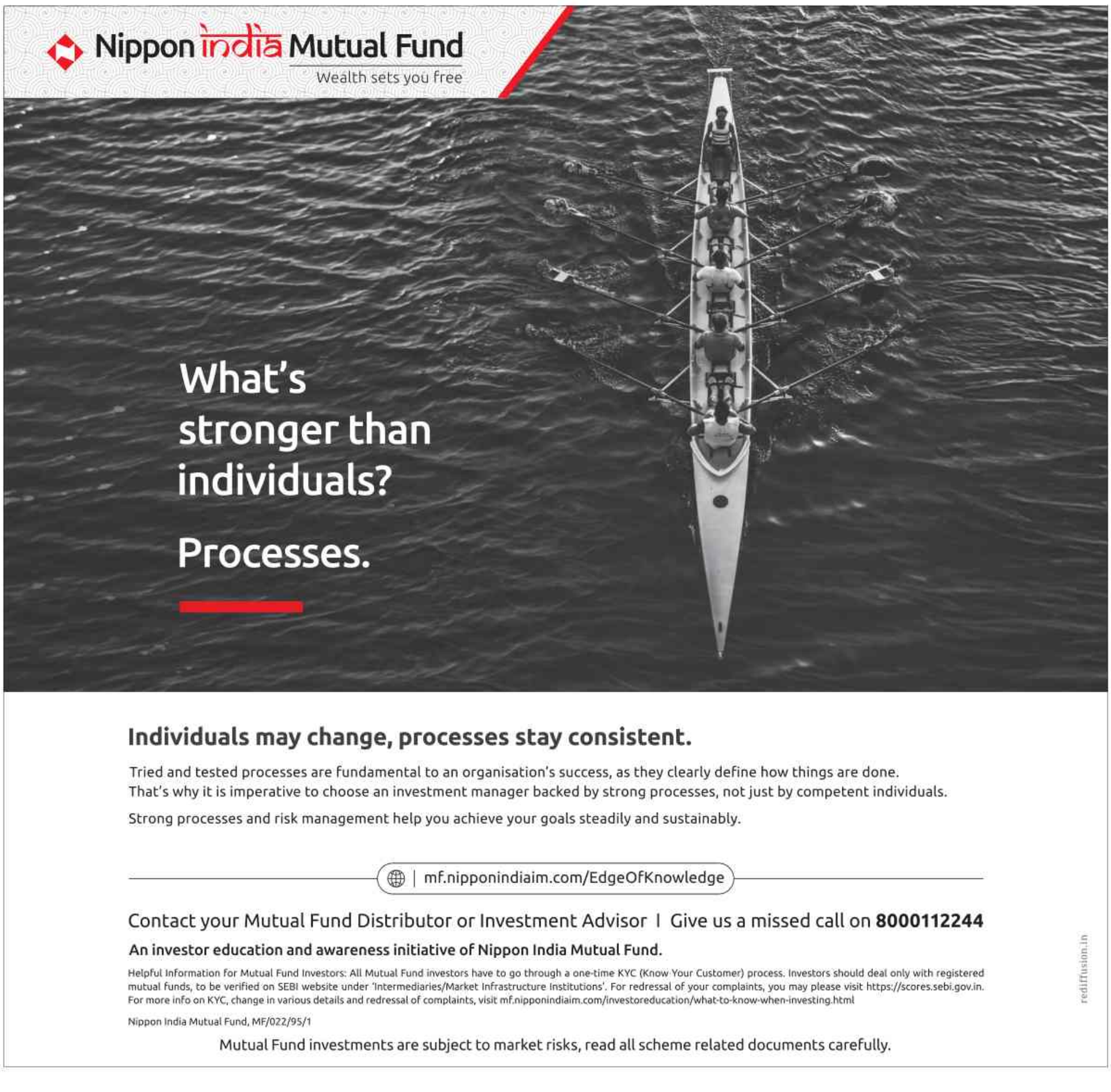
Amit Maheshwari
Managing Partner, AKM Global

I got married 25 years ago and was gifted gold by my family, around four sets. I also have bought jewellery over the years. I have no bills of these. Will that impact inheritance of these in any way? *—Rekha Dutta*

In many Indian households, gold acquired decades ago—particularly wedding gifts and jewellery purchased over the years—often lacks original bills. From both legal and tax perspectives, the absence of invoices does not undermine your ownership or your heirs' right to inherit the jewellery. Gold gifted to a woman before, during, or after marriage constitutes her streedhan and is considered her absolute property under Hindu law. Courts recognise such gifts as part of long-standing social customs. Similarly, jewellery purchased by you from your own funds is treated as your self-acquired asset. As long as your collection is reasonable for your family's background, it is generally not an issue. To ensure smooth inheritance and protect your heirs from future questions, prepare a simple inventory with descriptions and approximate weights, take photographs, and obtain a professional valuation report from a reputed jeweller or a certified valuer.

Vikash Jain
Co-founder, Share Samadhan

Please send your queries to *toiwealthplus@timesofindia.com*, mentioning your full name and city of residence.



A thought for today

When you get what you want, but not what you need
When you feel so tired, but you can't sleep
Stuck in reverse

COLDPLAY, song

The Brexit Carousel

A decade after "taking back control", Britain is instead defined by how often it replaces its PMs

Italy is pouring a Negroni and slow-clapping, *Benvenuto al club, britannici*. Set to welcome a seventh PM in a decade, Britain's become a legit member of the revolving-door club, where govts change oftener than curtains. Thing is, while the head start is all Italy's, Britain's now taken a full-on lead. Yes, Meloni's govt is Italy's 68th since WWII. But with Keir Starmer resigning, she will now be seeing off her third British PM!

The real chef's kiss detail is that the resignation comes almost exactly 10 years to the day since the Brexit referendum, which was supposed to end Britain's instability, and restore it to former glory. The Leave campaign's slogan, remember, was "Take Back Control". But the only thing the country's really taken control over since then, is how frequently it changes PMs. The one comfort's that Starmer's 717 days aren't crappier than Liz Truss's 49.

Meanwhile, for most Britons, the 2020s are managing to be even worse than the 2010s. At least then, there was some optimism that Brexit would rescue everybody. That hope's gone poof. One poll finds that 57% of Britons believe UK was wrong to vote to leave EU, another that only 11% think this made their daily life better. The continuous churn of PMs reflects a wider nihilism, that the country's fundamentally broken, NHS waiting lists will keep getting longer, and everyday problems keep getting worse. Another discarded PM can mean a fresh start, a reset. But equally, a further lurching rightwards.

Andy Burnham, the PM-in-waiting, is promising "change". But so did Starmer. That's how he got Labour into govt with a thumping majority. After the country had worked its way through five Conservative PMs – David Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Truss, Rishi Sunak. But he blew up a lot of that political capital by embracing the Epstein-tainted Mandelson. What is strange to outsiders today is how Burnham and Starmer don't look all that different. They appear to be adjacent versions of the same factory setting: middle-aged Labour men, lawyerly, managerial. Except one got polished at Cambridge, and the other at Oxford. Likely Burnham will strain against Trump and Nigel Farage as Starmer did. In the years since the Brexit vote, Britain has struggled with a low-growth economy, high debts, growing welfare bill, everything worsened by geopolitical volatility. This time it's Burnham promising that sunlit uplands are just around the corner. Likely an eighth PM will also enter the stage with the same brochure. As The Who sang, "Meet the new boss, same as the old boss."

Bully Boy

Trump's intimidation tactic is getting old. Countries are no longer shocked and awed

Trump's bullying ways continue. Just as American and Iranian negotiators were meeting in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, for direct talks to end the US-Iran war, POTUS was posting threats on social media, and telling *Fox News* that he had told Iranian negotiators that if they closed Hormuz again, "you won't have a country... You won't even make it back to your f******g country". Iranian negotiators walked out of the talks room in Bürgenstock in protest. In the same vein, over the weekend, Trump took to berating Italian PM Meloni, saying she was begging for a joint photo at the G7 in France. Meloni shot back that Trump treats his allies with less respect than his adversaries.

Of course, Trump's bullying ways are not new. It's baked into his policy approach. Within the current Trump administration, this has been cultivated as a strength. It's supposed to get people out of their comfort zone, and help seal favourable deals for US. It's classic playground bullying tactics. Trump projects power towards a smaller target to intimidate. And when the latter buckles, Trump claims victory without even a fight.

Except, much like bullies in everyday life, repeated intimidation has diminishing returns. That's why Trump's calculations vis-à-vis Iran went awry – Tehran refused to be intimidated. Similarly, India too stood up to Trump's bullying via trade tariffs. Result: both countries are reported to be close to a trade deal. But bullies are addicted to bullying, even when they don't get what they want. Trump's 'leadering' habit of compulsively taking credit for events, has begun to work against him. He has to be seen as producing favourable American outcomes, rather than getting the job done. And as countries – from China to Brazil – crack this pattern, it becomes a flaw. Trump will, in all probability, remain a bully. But with New Delhi, Beijing, Tehran, and now Rome, standing up to him, his hectoring won't work.

Wire We Here?

Nostalgia for the OG Telegram

Anil Abraham

"Telegram was blocked for a few days," I informed Kamala, as I handed her a cup of coffee. I then pulled out a fraying brownish folded piece of paper from my old diary. The original telegram. This particular one said: *Baby Boy. Both well.*

I smiled, as we both remembered the good old days of letters and telegrams. The telegram taught us to communicate the most important news with the least number of words. Charges were per word and so we chose our words carefully. No preamble, no salutation, no rambling, no decoration. Crisp, concise communication. "I wish some world leaders would be required to voice their thoughts, succinctly, only through these telegrams," Kamala wistfully said, pulling out her Trump card. "We could then finish unnecessary wars a lot earlier."

Both of us meandered nostalgically through those sepia-tinted days of the telegram. Announcements of a marriage, joy of a successful job interview, or an addition to the family, or worry about an illness, were all, invariably, conveyed quickly by this method. For 163 years, the telegram brought both good news and bad news into Indian homes. The postman got dressed in a classical khaki uniform and then rode up on a bicycle and shouted out the word "Telegram!!" Pulses would race and hearts would thump in anticipation, as the (un)familiar piece of paper was opened. Like cinema, the expression on the face of the family member reading the telegram, would reveal the nature of the news. The words were like bullets – sharp, precise and targeted. *Father serious. Come soon.*

No flowery sentences, no rodomontade, no exasperating farrago of vexing vocabulary – Tharoorisms in a telegram would be an unacceptable ostentation. Of course this was much before people started spelling good morning as gud mng. Or had the entire world news easily delivered to the screen of their mobile phone.

Meanwhile, the modern-day Telegram was temporarily banned in India, years after the original telegram became defunct on July 14, 2013. Why? Because when last month's NEET exam saw leakages and other glitches, the young kid on the block, Telegram Junior, got blamed for a lot of it. The message was to plug the leaks, the messenger was shot instead. If edmin were to get an old-fashioned telegram summarising this situation, it would probably read: *Students serious. System unwell. Adults missing.*

The Cruel Gatekeepers

India's broken competitive and Board examination system is torturing its youth. It demands root-and-branch reform. To begin with, allow candidates to sit for a test multiple times

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Tears rolling down the cheeks of a young woman holding the iron grills of an examination centre shut in her face.

Another girl next to her, wailing uncontrollably.

Elsewhere, a desperate mother falling to the feet of a security guard, begging for her daughter to be let past a gate closed moments earlier.

These scenes from the Sunday NEET re-examination offer a window into a tragedy far deeper than an isolated administrative mishap. They expose a deep systemic rot within India's high-stakes competitive education model – a pathology so entrenched that every attempt to secure it, only intensifies the agony of those it is meant to evaluate.

The immediate trigger for the distress witnessed across centres was a rigid gate-closure deadline. Arriving at 1.35pm for a 2pm exam could mean instant disqualification, even if the five-minute delay was caused by massive urban traffic jams engineered by local rallies. It could be a jam caused by a random road accident, or an unscheduled train halt. For the affected students, missing the cut-off by moments effectively invalidates half a decade of relentless toil. This unforgiving rigidity explains the desperate, panicked spectacles of students trying to scale perimeter walls, praying to be let in just this once.

In a country where a medical career remains one of the few guaranteed tickets to economic security, children as young as ten are routinely uprooted from their families to live in the pressure-cooker 'coaching factories' of towns like Kota and Sikar. The trauma is not borne by candidates alone; it engulfs a wider circle of parents, siblings, and future generations who watch this spectacle with mounting dread. To subject more than two million aspirants to this structural anxiety is bad enough; to force a nationwide retest because the original May exam was compromised by rampant paper leaks points to a long set institutional atrophy.

The foundational flaw lies in the architecture of the system itself. We are among a few countries that remain stubbornly wedded to a hyper-centralised, single-day pen-and-paper lottery. Because a student's entire future hinges on a single three-hour window once a year, a lucrative black market for leaked papers thrives. Govts' response has not been structural modernisation, but a paranoid escalation of securitisation – deploying biometric scanners, digital jammers, and criminal-like frisking protocols that treat aspiring doctors like potential felons.

Similar rigidities plague other exams, the most outdated and purposeless of which is what we call the Board exams – school clearing exams across national boards like CBSE and 30+ state education boards. Decades ago these exams, also called pre-university exams, were synonymous with entrance criteria; a high score secured direct admission into medical, engineering and other courses, or eased the path considerably. However, as number of applicants surged and grade inflation became the norm in all boards, states gradually introduced separate competitive entrance exams. Even after that, several states continued using Class 12 marks as one of the admission criteria until nationalised tests became standard.

Imaged by AI. from a photograph

Faces that haunted the nation

The intent was not wrong, implementation was. The archaic Board exams were retained with the same dread and inflexibility – held only once a year – even as their practical relevance dwindled to near zero. Common entrance exams like NEET, JEE, or CUET came up supplementing one 'do-or-be damned' exam with two. If the ostensible purpose of retaining Board exams is to assess broad learning, while entrance exams gauge specific professional eligibility, the lack of systemic coordination is baffling.

Most colleges abroad admit Indian students on average scores of the last four exam scores, board being only one. That's a holistic test of learning outcome. The Indian system, conversely, compresses the final four years of schooling into a hellish crucible of boards, pre-boards, coaching classes, and entrance exams that test both state capacity and student sanity past their breaking points. This misalignment produces other tragic anomalies too: often students who rank among the top percentiles in hyper-competitive entrance exams find their achievements reduced to naught simply because they missed an arbitrary percentage threshold in their Board exams.

Allowing candidates to attempt an examination multiple times and submit their best score would instantly deflate the artificial premium placed on a single afternoon

Politicians of all hues routinely pay lip service to reducing student stress, yet the current apparatus does the precise opposite. The remedies are obvious, tested, and widely used elsewhere. Central and state govts must dismantle this high-stakes annual bottleneck. Instead, it should transition to a rolling, (wherever possible) screen-based examination administered three or four times a year. This does not require an overnight replication of America's SAT or the computer-based format of India's own JEE; rather, it demands a steady, deliberate migration towards a flexible model.

Allowing candidates to attempt an examination multiple times and submit their best score would instantly deflate the artificial premium placed on a single afternoon. It would eliminate the structural incentives for corrupt leaks and remove the catastrophic penalty of a five-minute traffic delay. If India wishes to harness its already-declining demographic dividend, it must stop breaking the spirits of its youth at the exam-centre gates. Modernising this system is no longer just a technocratic upgrade; it is a moral and developmental imperative.

In The Footsteps Of World Cup's Dancing Dutch Royals

When heads of state, or govt, let their hair down, they make an important point

Abhilash.Gaur@timesofindia.com

It's unusual for Europe's royals to be seen dancing in public, yet, on Sunday, after tiny Curaçao – a nation of 1.6L people – drew their World Cup match against Ecuador, Dutch king Willem-Alexander and queen Maxima landed in their locker room to shake a leg. Their joy is understandable, for Curaçao is part of the Kingdom of Netherlands. But the dance? It seems the royal couple were acting on ancient Greek playwright Aristophanes' advice: "Always keep the people on your side."

That's an advice royals everywhere, but especially in Europe, have internalised rapidly in recent years. So, you find Jordan's next-in-line, Hussein and Rajwa, and Japan's princess Takamado, cheerleading their teams at the ongoing Cup. Spain's king, Felipe, has confirmed attendance, and Sweden's royals are expected too.

RATINGS BOOSTER | And with four weeks to go before the final, you can expect elected "royalty" as well – PMs and presidents of some of the 48 participant states. Macron's presence at the Argentina-France final in Qatar, and his on-field commiseration with Mbappé, would have won him some points at home. Not that he needed them then, with polls eight months behind. But he could use a boost now. Too bad Starmer can't. He was anyway looking in a hopeless place, with only 19% approval last month.

COMMON TOUCH | Ultimately, for heads of state, being seen at the World Cup boils down to a display of their "common touch" – an ability to communicate with and understand ordinary people. Elected leaders, if they are smart, will display it all the time. But for royals, it's become a survival tactic. That's why they go out of their way to appear like normal middle-class people, burdened with castles. Cycling to work like former Dutch PM Mark Rutte, and regularly public-messaging like former Kiwi PM Jacinda Ardern. But royals are also lucky the public doesn't judge them so harshly when they get caught drinking and dancing – former Finnish PM Sanna Marin had to take a drug test for having a good time.

SOLID TRADITION | In our own culture, heroes of Ramayan and Mahabharat are accessible to common people. Ram gladly accepts Shabari's berries, and Krishn welcomes his poor friend Sudama. In history, Akbar may not have roamed around his kingdom incognito, to listen to people's woes, but the legend shows kings understood the importance of common touch. The Mughal tradition of jharokha darshan also reinforced connection, from a distance.

In England, though, it was important for kings to actually touch their subjects. People believed the king's touch, or Royal Touch, could cure scrofula, TB of lymph nodes. Shakespeare made it part of Macbeth's plot. And Charles II, a contemporary of Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb, is said to have touched 100,000 commoners in his reign.

SNOOTY TURN | But then, this touching, hugging kind of kingship faded, and royals became all hoity-toity. In Britain, it became the rule not to touch the monarch on any account. When Australian PM Paul Keating placed a hand on the queen's back, at a reception in 1992, tabloids labelled him 'Lizard of Oz'.

So, why did royals become so aloof, and why are they now trying so hard to mingle? The answer boils down to need. When hierarchies were rigid, they didn't care. Just a century ago, British journalist Vernon Randall mocked the common touch, then a growing phenomenon in House of Commons. He described it as "a touch of nature that makes the whole world grin, if that world has no more manners than a clever schoolboy".

HUGS & KISSES | From ancient times, the French had greeted each other with a quick kiss, but this tradition fell with the Black Death in the 1300s. Only to make a comeback after the French Revolution in 1789. Why? Because there were no royals anymore. Everyone was equal, theoretically, and equals don't kiss the hems of each other's skirts. They shake hands, embrace, kiss, because these actions are deeply symbolic. Shaking hands shows you aren't hiding a weapon. Kissing and hugging imply we trust each other enough to share germs.

STAYING RELEVANT | Their newfound common touch is a survival strategy for the world's remaining royals. They haven't forgotten how Italy in 1946, and Greece in 1974, abolished monarchy by referendum. When Diana, famous for her common touch, died in 1997, just five years after the 'Lizard of Oz' outrage, popular support for British royals had crashed to 32%, from 65% in 1983. Hence, the charm offensive, everywhere from Spain to Sweden.

TOO LATE NOW? | And it's a lovely thing, this dismissal of Divine Right and other anachronistic beliefs. But the royals could have started on this mission a lot sooner, for Kipling did suggest: *"If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, or walk with kings – nor lose the common touch..."*

Is it too late already? Maybe, but while royalty lasts, everyone will cheer a few blue-blooded cheerleaders in the stands – as long as they pay for their tickets.

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacred*space*

Letting go gives us freedom, and freedom is the only condition for happiness. If, in our heart, we still cling to anything – anger, anxiety, or possessions – we cannot be free.

Thich Nhat Hanh

May Every Breath We Take Be A Prayer For Peace

Haji Syed Salman Chishty

Yog is the union of the body with breath, of breath with mind, of a human being with the Source from which we came and to which we return. The world sought to practise yog, seeking relief from pain, calm for the restless mind, and yog gave all of this generously. Science now confirms what rishis knew in silence: steady the breath, and you steady the heart. But yog was never only about health, it is a way of life, a daily covenant of moderation, awareness, gratitude and service. Yog whispers to a weary world: slow down, breathe, return to yourself, and you will find the Divine waiting there.

How far this gift has travelled is a miracle. Across the Gulf in United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, and even in Saudi Arabia, the very birthplace of Islam, yog is practised and loved by thousands, led by certified teachers, honoured by GOI and its embassies as a living bridge between civilisations.

Nouf Marwaai, Saudi Arabia's first certified yog instructor and founder of the Arab Yoga Foundation, was conferred the Padma Shri in 2018; she's the first Arab recipient to receive this honour and now leads the Saudi Yoga Committee. Hers is the proof of a quiet truth: yog conflicts with no one's faith, because it asks nothing of belief and everything of sincerity. It does not change the mind; it cleanses it. A Muslim who breathes consciously becomes a better Muslim; a Christian who sits in stillness prays more deeply; a Hindu who serves with awareness draws nearer to the Divine.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Long before the word 'interfaith' was coined, Sufis of India and yogis of Nath Sampradaya sat together as seekers, not strangers. It is recounted in our shared heritage that Hazrat Baba Farid Ganj-i-Shakar, Chishty saint of Punjab, met wandering jogis of his age and that they exchanged secrets of the breath: a yogi's pranayam and a Sufi's *habs-i-dam*, guarding of every breath in remembrance of the Beloved. Each recognised in the other a fellow climber of the same mountain through a different path. Disciplines of Gorakhnath and Nath yogis' posture, breath, and stilling of the mind flowed into the spiritual soil of India and met Sufi sciences of *Zikr* and *muraqaba*, Sufi meditation. From that meeting came not confusion, but compassion. This is our civilisational inheritance: unity without uniformity, oneness that honours difference.

Beneath our many names for the Divine, the human heart beats with one longing. The mat and prayer rug, asan and sajda, the Aum and Zikr, all are the body's way of expressing the soul's single word: return.

This, then, is yog for interfaith harmony not a watering-down of any tradition, but discovery of the still point where all traditions touch. In a world torn by borders, it offers a wordless peace that needs no translation. It heals the body so the heart may be free.

When we breathe together, we cannot hate one another. May every breath drawn be a prayer for peace.

The writer is 26th generation gaddi nashin, Dargah Ajmer Sharif; and chairman, Chishty Foundation

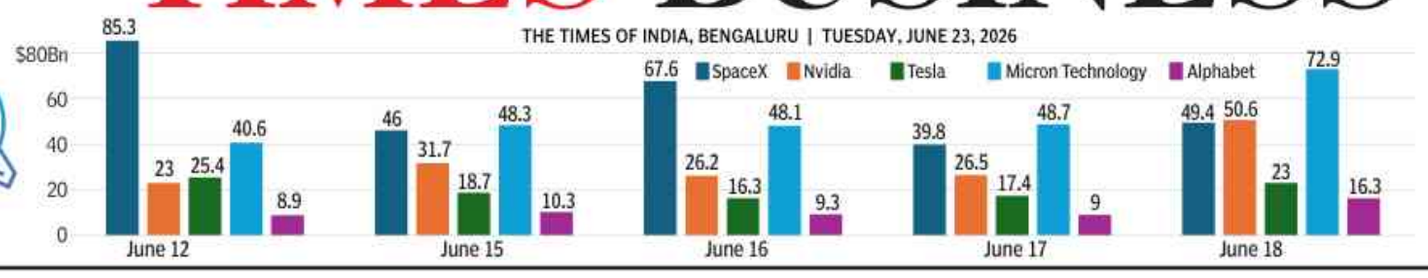
TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026

SpaceX tops list of most active US stocks

Trading volume spiked after debut

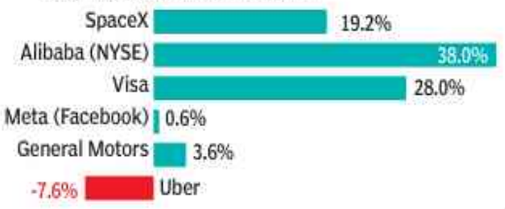
SpaceX's record-breaking IPO fuelled a trading frenzy in its first week as a public company, with its shares surging as retail investors and options traders rushed to bet on the Elon Musk-steered rockets-to-AI firm



Note: Values are turnover, in billions of dollars
Source: Reuters

How some of the largest US IPOs traded on day one

SpaceX's record $75 billion raise produced a 19% gain in its debut session, behind Alibaba and Visa, while Uber closed below its offer price



Govt seeks comparative advantage in US trade deal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: As US Trade Representative Jaimeson Greer touches down in the Capital for negotiations, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal Monday said that India will seek a comparative advantage in the trade deal.

"We are trying to work out with the US how we can get a comparative advantage so that our exporters, MSMEs, processed food, engineering goods can benefit. India today is moving up the value chain... all the trade deals we have done and the ones that are in the pipeline will help us open greater opportunities for our exporters and we will have competition for products that we need to import," the minister said at an event organised by Republic TV.

The minister said India is looking at two-way benefit and underlined that any deal has to benefit both sides. Goyal and Greer are due to meet over the next couple to days to give "finishing touches" to the agreement, although the final tariff can only be worked out after the two section 301 probes by USTR are completed.

"We have gone through the negotiations over last one year. By and large things are sorted out. We had announced the first tranche of the bilateral trade agreement earlier this year... Supreme Court of US changed rules of game. Entire trade deal had to be reworked. An agreement where you are opening trade between two countries for greater growth, rapid expansion and more opportunities is about getting preferential treatment over your competition."

Aurobindo gets nod to buy Lannett for $250mn

Hyderabad: Aurobindo Pharma's US arm, Aurobindo Pharma USA, has received approval from the US Federal Trade Commission to acquire Lannett Company LLC in a $250 million transaction, clearing a key regulatory hurdle for a deal that is expected to close before the end of June. The buy is valued on a cash-free, debt-free basis and includes normalised working capital, Aurobindo Pharma said in a filing. The company said the acquisition will expand its presence in complex generic medicines, particularly non-opioid controlled substances. TNN

Employers told to analyse mismatches in salary filings

I-T Dept Aims To Track Bogus Claims, Concession Swapping

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: As part of its crackdown on bogus claims, the income tax department has advised employers to analyse mismatches in their salary related filings, while also looking to move against several cases of "swapping" of concessions after suspected irregularities were flagged and taxpayers updated or revised their returns.

Officials said they have come across several cases where taxpayers have "swapped provisions" to claim benefits: For instance, employees with high HRA claims withdrew it and instead claimed benefit under section 10(14) of the Income tax Act, which allow benefits under allowances such as conveyance, education or for working in hilly areas.

Similarly, in some cases, when the updated returns were filed, taxpayers sought to change the provision from say donation to political parties to research institutes. "In several cases the additional income tax paid is just a few hundred," said an official.

In any case, the threshold for reaching out to taxpayers with suspected claims was Rs 50,000 to Rs 1 lakh. Some 15,000-20,000 cases have been identified which are likely to be taken up for scrutiny so that wrongdoers can be punished. The move is part of the department's Nudge campaign, which makes targeted pitches to come out clean and in the extreme case acts against wrongdoers.

Separately, employers have been contacted, asking them to analyse the mismatch in Form 24Q relating to TDS deducted by them. Companies and even govt departments have been sensitised about educating their staff against falling prey to touts, who have in the past encouraged individuals to make bogus claims in their returns for a commission.

With tax authorities now armed with data analytics tools, it is easy to identify red flags and then nudge them through mails and messages by sharing data. In most cases, officials have said that taxpayers voluntarily comply and correct or update their returns in case of information slipping their attention at the time of filing.

It only acts against those who do not disclose their income accurately. Tax returns have also been updated to ensure that details are shared with tax authorities on aspects, such as health insurance or education or EV loans.

FACING SCRUTINY

- I-T dept has come across several cases where taxpayers have "swapped provisions" to claim benefits
- Has identified 5,000-20,000 cases, which are likely to be taken up for scrutiny
- Aim is to punish the wrongdoers
- The move is part of department's Nudge campaign

At 0.5%, core sector grows at slowest pace in 7 mths

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The index of infrastructure industries grew 0.5% in May, the slowest pace of expansion since last Oct, as only three of the eight sectors registered higher output. While cement expanded at 8.4%, steel saw production rise by 5% and power generation was 8.7% higher, according to the latest numbers released on Monday.

In contrast, the energy sectors — coal (down 9.3%), refining (8.7% fall), fertiliser (0.9% dip), crude (4.6% lower) and natural gas (4.9% decline) — witnessed contraction. The index had increased 1.2% in May 2025 and 1.8% in April 2026. A part of the reason for the moderation was the disruption caused by the war in West Asia, which hit oil refining and fertiliser. Crude and gas production has fallen during most months, barring the occasional increase. "Coal registered negative growth as companies focussed on managing inventory in a more efficient manner and cut down on production," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist at Bank of Baroda.

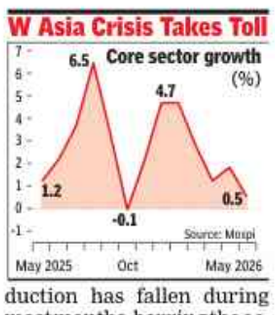
The eight core industries have a weight of over 40% in the index of industrial production and their poor performance will be reflected in the factory output data due to be released later this month.

"Core sector growth in May was disappointing... The lower growth number on low base can be attributed more to the decline in production from the petro-based sector," Sabnavis said, adding that IIP was expected to expand 1-1.5% in May.

"Given the tepid performance of the core sector in May 2026, IIP growth is likely to weaken to 2-3% in the month from 4.9% in April 2026," said Rahul Agrawal, principal economist at ratings agency ICRA.

Several economists, as well as RBI, have lowered the growth forecasts for the current fiscal year due to the West Asia conflict as well as the likely impact of weak monsoons. But demand for automobiles, white goods and FMCG has so far held firm, reflecting in healthy tax collection numbers.

W Asia Crisis Takes Toll



Tata Electronics breach sparks Apple, Tesla data leak claims

New Delhi: Tata Electronics said on Monday it had detected a recent "cybersecurity incident", after researchers said World Leaks posted purported component design and specification papers of Apple and Tesla, both customers of the Tata group.

The ransomware group has posted more than 200,000 files on the dark web, the security researchers said.

"A few weeks ago, Tata Electronics identified a cybersecurity incident on some of our systems. Our response protocols were deployed immediately, and the incident has had no impact on our operations across businesses, which remain unaffected," Tata Electronics said in a statement. Apple was investigating the breach and a "full analysis was going on", a source familiar with the matter said, adding that Tata had received a ransom demand related to the incident.

Apple did not respond to requests for comment. REUTERS

Policies sold by banks, agents to name sellers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Irdai has proposed a sweeping overhaul of insurance regulations in June 2026 after the enactment of the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Act, 2025, introducing new investment avenues, tighter transparency norms for intermediaries, and structural changes aimed at improving market penetration and accountability.

The proposals, made under three exposure drafts and three consultation papers, introduce stricter consumer protection measures at the point of sale. Every insurance policy will be digitally tagged to the individual salesperson responsible for the sale, including specified persons, broker qualified persons, insurance sales persons, authorised verifiers, or point of sales persons, enabling traceability and accountability in cases of mis-selling. At present responsibility is of the organisation in case of policies sold by banks or corporate agents.

To strengthen enforcement, Irdai has increased maximum penalty to ₹10 crore from ₹1 crore

A key structural reform is the shift from fixed-term licensing to a perpetual registration regime for intermediaries such as third-party administrators, insurance surveyors and loss assessors, corporate agents, brokers, and web aggregators. Registrations will remain valid subject to payment of an annual fee, ensuring continuity of services such as claims processing and loss assessment.

To strengthen enforcement, Irdai has increased maximum penalty to Rs 10 crore from Rs 1 crore. According to the framework, the alignment removes gaps between sub-regulations and the parent Act, ensuring uniform enforcement.

Corporate agents such as banks and large retail networks must appoint at least one qualified specified person in every branch for insurance solicitation.

Kharola, ex-CMD of AI, returns as adviser to Chandra

New Delhi: Former aviation secretary and Air India CMD Pradeep Singh Kharola will join with immediate effect as executive advisor to Air India chairman N Chandrasekharan. The announcement was made by AI's outgoing CEO Campbell Wilson, who termed Kharola's onboarding as invaluable in ensuring smooth leadership transition to new CEO as former's tenure is in final stages.

Following record losses and Ahmedabad crash, Air India group's growth could hit a pause till things stabilise within. Tata group is expected to decide to Wilson's successor with CCO Nipun Aggarwal and Singapore Airlines senior VP Vinod Kannan being two shortlisted candidates. TNN

Shah's move: Rewarding bills to rewiring chats

His Public Persona Has Been Part Founder, Part Investor And Part Internet Philosopher

Supriya.Roy@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: For years, Kunal Shah has built companies around a simple question: What makes people change their behaviour?

In 2010, when he founded FreeCharge, it was the dull act of mobile recharges. In 2018, when he founded Cred, it was the monthly ritual of paying credit card bills. Now, Shah is headed to one of the world's largest consumer products, WhatsApp, the Meta-owned messaging app used by billions of people across countries, languages and income groups.

Meta Platforms on Monday appointed Shah as the new global head of WhatsApp, replacing Will Cathcart after a seven-year run. Shah will relocate to Meta's California headquarters for the role. He will step away from day-to-day responsibilities at Cred, while continuing as a shareholder.

The move marks one of the most high-profile transitions of an Indian startup founder into the top leadership of a global bigtech product. It is also a striking turn in Shah's career: from building products for India's urban, creditworthy consumers to leading an app that sits on the phone screens of shopkeepers, families, students, small businesses, political workers and professionals around the world.

Shah, 47, is not the usual bigtech executive. His public persona has always been part founder, part investor and part internet philosopher. His LinkedIn profile describes him simply as "Founder: CRED, curious." The word is not accidental. Shah has built much of his public image around curiosity, trust, status, incentives, money, ambition and why people do what they do.

Shah studied philosophy at Wilson College in Mumbai. He later enrolled in a part-time MBA programme at NMIMS but dropped out. In interviews, he has said he began working in his teens while continuing his education. Before FreeCharge, he founded PaisaBack, a cashback promotions company, in 2009. That business eventually pivoted into FreeCharge, which he co-founded with Sandeep Tandon.

FreeCharge made something boring feel useful. It gave consumers rewards for online recharges and bill payments at a time when India's digital payments market was still young. In 2015, Snapdeal acquired FreeCharge in a cash-and-stock deal widely reported at about Rs 2,800 crore, or $400-450 million. For Shah, it was a big exit.

After that, he became one of India's most active angel investors, backing startups across fintech, consumer internet and media. As per market intelligence firm Tracxn, his investments – including Razorpay, Shiprocket, Snapdeal, Rapido, Spinny, Bigbasket and Unacademy – total 297. He has also advised AngelList and Sequoia Capital, served on the boards of Pine Labs and Syrma SGS, and chaired the Internet and Mobile Association of India for a period.

Then came Cred.

The first version of Cred sounded narrow: an app that rewarded users for paying credit-card bills on time. But behind it was a larger Shah thesis. In an interview with **TOI** last year, Shah said consumers are invariably penalised for missing payments or damaging their credit scores, but rarely rewarded for responsible financial conduct. Cred was built to reward good behaviour. At some point Shah realised credit-card bill payments alone were limiting. So, he moved also into lending, UPI, account aggregation, shopping, travel and secured loans.

Many Indian consumers using credit cards or loans, he said, are the first in their families to access formal credit. That makes money feel intimidating. Credit, in his telling, should feel like learning to swim or drive: not a source of panic or thrill, but a useful tool handled with stability.

Cred was built for affluent and creditworthy Indians. It used rewards, design and status to make repayment feel less like a chore. Its ads became almost a cultural moment. Its business model was often questioned.

The Meta transaction gives Cred its next chapter. Cred board and leadership are working on a structure ahead of an eventual IPO. Shah's move places him at the centre of WhatsApp's next problem: how to turn a globally dominant messaging app into a deeper platform for commerce, payments, business communication and AI-led services, without breaking the simplicity and trust that made it essential in the first place.

In India, WhatsApp is not just an app. It is family infrastructure, business software, political distribution, customer service, neighbourhood noticeboard and daily habit. Meta has tried for years to build payments and commerce on top of it, with mixed results. Shah arrives with experience in precisely those messy areas: money, trust, consumer incentives, and the thin line between habit and fatigue.

INDIAN-ORIGIN GLOBAL CEOS

- Satya Nadella | MICROSOFT
- Sundar Pichai | ALPHABET
- Arvind Krishna | IBM
- Leena Nair | CHANEL
- Raj Subramaniam | FEDEX
- George Kurian | NETAPP
- Revathi Advaithi | FLEX
- Vasant Narasimhan | NOVARTIS
- C S VenkataKrishnan | BARCLAYS
- Vimal Kapur | HONEYWELL
- Sanjay Mehrotra | MICRON
- Nikesh Arora | PALO ALTO NETWORKS
- Jayshree Ullal | ARISTA NETWORKS
- Sridhar Ramaswamy | SNOWFLAKE
- Shailesh Jejurikar | P&G
- Neal Mohan | YOUTUBE

WhatsApp 2025 biz tops $2b run rate, Cred eyes IPO

▶Continued from page 1

Revenues from paid messaging services have crossed a $2 billion annualised run rate in the Dec 2025 quarter. The company has also been pushing AI tools for businesses on WhatsApp, enabling merchants to automate customer interactions and sales. Cred began as a rewards platform for credit card bill payments and has since expanded into lending, insurance, wealth management and commerce. The firm says it has over 17 million monthly active members, manages a Rs 24,000-crore lending assets book through partner institutions and generates annual revenue of about Rs 3,200 crore. It recently posted its first profitable quarter and is working towards a potential IPO.

Meta's India WhatsApp and Cred Power Growth operations, however, have been facing growing legal scrutiny. Earlier this year, Supreme Court warned WhatsApp and its parent firm against sharing user data for targeted advertising, saying citizens' privacy rights couldn't be compromised for commercial interests. SC had indicated the court could prohibit such practices if adequate safeguards are not put in place.

WHATSAPP & CRED POWER GROWTH

- **India remains WhatsApp's biggest market,** with more than 600m users
- **Meta's paid messaging business crossed a $2 billion annualised revenue run rate** in the Dec 2025 quarter
- **WhatsApp Pay processed over 150 million UPI transactions** in March 2026
- **Cred has 17m monthly active users** and manages ₹24,000 crore lending AUM
- **It posted annual revenue of ₹3,200cr;** recently reported its first profitable quarter

Alan Greenspan, US Fed maestro, dies at 100

Alan Greenspan, hailed as the greatest Federal Reserve chairman when he retired in 2006 but derided for a severe financial crisis that followed barely two years later, died on Monday aged 100, his wife said.

Greenspan, who exerted a powerful influence on the US economy during his tenure at the helm of the Fed from Aug 1987 to Jan 2006, died at his home from complications of Parkinson's disease, Andrea Mitchell said in a statement.

"He was a giant of a man who helped shape the US economy for decades under presidents of both parties, but was always honest in acknowledging his mistakes," Mitchell said. "He will be remembered for his brilliance and his kindness. Being his life partner was the joy of my life," she added. Greenspan oversaw the second-longest economic expansion in US history, an uninterrupted decade of growth from March 1991 to March 2001. His decision to let the economy run — despite pressure to raise interest rates against an inflation threat that never materialised — helped foster years of US prosperity and earned him rock star status as an economic "maestro."

The era was marked by his prescient judgment that a productivity surge in the mid-1990s would keep inflation contained. His intuition in that moment is still a touchstone for policymakers, and has been referred to by former Fed chair Jerome Powell as an example of how judgment can sometimes outperform technical models of the economy.

However, the one-time jazz musician's monetary policy acumen later came into question as critics attacked his policies for fuelling a series of asset price bubbles and laying the groundwork for the 2007-2009 financial crisis.

"I think the deification that came just before the financial crisis was never really deserved, and I think the lambasting that he took after he left was never fully deserved either," said Stephen Oliner, a former senior Fed official.

Greenspan, who fell in love with math through an obsession with baseball statistics, won quick plaudits for a strong response to the Black Monday stock market crash of 1987, just two months after he took office. He also steered the US economy through the 1990-91 recession, the 1997-1998 Asian and Russian financial contagion, the collapse of the dot-com stocks bubble in 2000, and the turbulent economic aftermath of the Sept 11, 2001, attacks. Along the way, biographer Sebastian Mallaby detailed, he became a consummate Washington power player able to maneuver presidents and cabinet secretaries into making the decisions he felt were best, sometimes without them realising who pulled the strings. REUTERS

POWERFUL INFLUENCE ON US ECONOMY

- Greenspan exerted a powerful influence on the US economy during his tenure at the **helm of the Fed from Aug 1987 to Jan 2006**
- **He oversaw the second-longest economic expansion in US history,** an uninterrupted decade of growth from March 1991 to March 2001
- **He steered the US economy through the 1990-91 recession,** the 1997-1998 Asian and Russian financial contagion, the collapse of the dot-com stocks bubble in 2000, and the turbulent economic aftermath of the Sept 11, 2001 attacks
- **His monetary policy acumen came into question as critics attacked his policies** for fuelling a series of asset price bubbles and laying the groundwork for the 2007-2009 financial crisis

RBI to bks: Invest in, use digital public infra for MSME loans

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI is moving towards a fully digital, data-driven, low-friction MSME credit ecosystem, with unified lending interface (ULI) and digital public infrastructure at the centre, backed by continued regulatory support and stronger participation from banks and MSMEs.

Inaugurating an event for celebration of International MSME day in Kochi on Monday, RBI governor Sanjay Malhotra called upon banks and financial institutions to invest in the country's digital public infrastructure stack including the account aggregator framework, ULI, TReDS, GST data trails, and Aadhaar-enabled authentication.

"This will help create conditions for a fundamentally more inclusive credit ecosystem," he said.

He called upon banks to accelerate the implementation of various schemes like Priority Sector Lending, MUDRA, PM-SWANIDHI, PM Vishwakarma, Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSEs and not consider lending to MSMEs as a regulatory obligation alone, but as long-term business partners whose sustained growth generates durable financial returns and broad social value.

RBI governor Malhotra has asked banks not to consider lending to MSMEs as only a regulatory obligation

"Relationship banking, deepened and informed by digital data, can be a powerful and humanising complement to technology-led credit delivery," he said.

The governor encouraged MSMEs to invest in technology, research and development, and innovation to remain competitive. He also urged them to embrace formal financial systems by registering under Udyam and actively using digital credit platforms.

The governor also raised areas of concern that continue to constrain MSME financing. Foremost among these is the persistent credit gap, with the RBI acknowledging that despite progress, financing needs have not been fully met. This reflects ongoing under-penetration of formal finance and structural funding constraints. Frictions in credit delivery—such as lengthy processes, documentation burdens, and underwriting delays—remain significant, underscoring the need for faster, data-driven lending models.

KOLHAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, KOLHAPUR
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE NO. 33

Online tenders through E-Tendering system are invited from contractors for works such as restoration of the road with the laid gas pipeline under pr.no. 39 rajarampuri extension asphalting using hot mix method etc. The detailed tender notice can be downloaded from the e-tendering website www.mahatenders.gov.in. Date of tender submission from 23/06/2026 09.30 AM to 30/06/2026 at 3.30 PM. Tender Opening Date 02/07/2026 at 4.00 pm.

Date 22/06/2026.

Sd/-
City Engineer
Kolhapur Municipal Corporation

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in Contact No.: 96461-18773

TENDER ENQUIRY No.: QQ-1349/PO-C&S

Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistorey Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites e-Tender for procurement of 4Cx25 sq.mm-1312 Km as per tender specification no. QQ-1349/PO/C&S. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 23.06.2026 (11.00 AM) onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

C671/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/12578

NISM National Institute of Securities Markets
A Capacity Building Initiative of SEBI
NISM BHAVAN, PLOT NO. 82, SECTOR 17, VASHI, NAVI MUMBAI 400 703

Empanelment of the Agency for Public Relations Management and Media Outreach of NISM

Applications are invited from eligible agencies for the captioned work. The estimated cost of work is Rs.60,00,000 (Rupees Sixty Lakhs) per year. The last date of submission of applications is **July 10, 2026**

For details, please refer website www.nism.ac.in and https://www.tenderwizard.com/NISM

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
WEST ZONE-2
Office of the Executive Engineer, Vijayanagara Division, 1st Floor, Shasakara Bhavana, 3rd Main Road, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560 040.

No: EE(VJN)/TEND/KPPP/04/2026-27 Date: 22-06-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, Vijayanagara Division, BWCC invites standard tender documents KW-4 on behalf of the Commissioner, BWCC Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers registered in GBA or equivalent registration with PWD/CPWD or any state governmental organization for the execution of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Comprehensive development of Roads, Drains and Other Allied infrastructural Works in Ward No. 87 K P Agrahara and Ward No. 88 Sangolli Rayanna. **Est. Cost: ₹.300.00 Lakhs, Amount put to Tender: ₹.246.72 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.3,70,080.00** (₹.1.00 lakh through KPP Portal & the balance ₹.2,70,080.00 shall be in the form of Bank Guarentee/FD)
2.	Comprehensive development of Roads, Drains and Other Allied infrastructural Works in & Manjunathanagara & surrounding area in Ward No. 89 Bapujinagara. **Est. Cost: ₹.300.00 Lakhs, Amount put to Tender: ₹.246.74 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.3,70,110.00** (₹.1.00 lakh through KPP Portal & the balance ₹. 2,70,110.00 shall be in the form of Bank Guarentee/FD)

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal from **25-06-2026**, (2) Last Date & Time for uploading Tender documents on **09-07-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Pre-Bid meeting on **03-07-2026** at **3:00** pm. (4) Opening of Technical document on **10-07-2026** at **4:30** pm. (5) Financial Opening (Opening date will be intimated through KPP Portal)

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Vijayanagara)
BWCC, Zone-2

SDS TRC & RAJIV GANDHI INSTITUTE OF CHEST DISEASES
(An Autonomous Institute, Government of Karnataka)
Reg. No. SOR/BLU/DR/671/09-10 dated: 23-09-2009
(Super speciality Referral Hospital & Post Graduate Institute)

No. SDS/TND/10/11/2026-27 Date : 20-06-2026

Tender Notification

Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal-2 for the services of **(1)** Tender for Food Catering Services to In-patients **(2)** Providing Vehicle with drivers on hired basis. Tender Document is available in KPP Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from **23.06.2026** onwards.

Sd/- Director
SDS TRC & RGICD
Bengaluru-560029

DIPR/CP/1296/Sreshta/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
A.P. TOWNSHIP & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
Block-2, besides CRDA New Building, Rayapudi, Amaravati

Name of the work: APTIDCO - Nellore Circle - Construction of High School building at APTIDCO Phase I colony in the location of Venkateswarapuram Nellore Municipal Corporation, Nellore District-**Publication of E-Tender Notice for the work relates to Nellore Circle-Requested- Reg.**
ECV Amount:-ECV of Rs.7,34,08,112/- for High School Building at Venkateswarapuramu, Nellore Municipal Corporation, Nellore District.

E-Procurement Notice

Tender Notice No:1).NIT No.01/School Building/Nellore circle/ DCTO/ APTIDCO/GNT/2026-27/167, Dt:20-06-2026.	
Bid Document Downloading Start Date	22-06-2026 @ 11:00 Hrs
Bid Document Downloading Close Date	08-07-2026 @ 14:00 Hrs
Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids	08-07-2026 @ 15:00 Hrs
Technical Bid Opening Date	08-07-2026 @ 17:00 Hrs
Financial Bid Opening Date	09-07-2026 @ 11:00 Hrs
Name & Address of the Concerned Officer : Deputy Chief Technical Officer, House No.25/3/296, New Military Colony, Nippo Centre, Nellore-524004	

The details can be seen in website **http://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.**
Thereof Contact No: **+ 919701692299**

Sd/- 22.06.2026
Managing Director, APTIDCO, Amaravati

DIPR No: 5193PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 Dt:22/06/2026

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned by Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tenders through KPP Portal from eligible Bidders against Enquiry No.: **BESCOM/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT1078/CALL-2,** for Supply, installation, configuration, commissioning and maintenance of One No. of Server as per the required specification along with software license for Windows Operating system and MS SQL database for a period of three years. Tender documents available from: **23.06.2026 onwards.** Date & Venue of Pre-Bid meeting: **30.06.2026, 11:30 AM at Chamber of GM-IT, BESCOM, 5th Floor, Belaku Bhavana, Corporate Office, K. R Circle, Bengaluru.** Last date of Receiving Queries/ Clarification: **Queries if any may be sent to gmit@bescom.co.in on or before 30.06.2026, 05:00 PM.** Last Date of Submission of bids: **08.07.2026, 4:00 PM.**
The tender can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further Bidders can take assistance of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal help desk with Contact Numbers: **+91-80460 10000, +91-8068948777** or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.**

Sd/- General Manager (IT),
BESCOM, 5th Floor, Belaku Bhavan,
Corporate Office, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru.

For Electricity related complaints call : 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP.

E-mail :- acez1jpr.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PWD ZONE-I JAIPUR
PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Infront of Jaipur Club, Jaipur (O) 0141-2223525
No.: ACE-I/Zone-I/NIT No. 01/2026-27/D-512 Date : 11/06/2026

NOTICE INVITING BID

Budget Announcement 2026-27 road work of Sikar District is invited from interested bidders from dated 16.06.2026 at 09:30 AM upto dated 07.08.2026 at 06:00 PM, other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and pwd.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs.4261.83 lacs
NIB No ....
UBN No ....

Sr. No.	District	Name of work	UBN No.
1	Sikar	सिहोट बड़ी-रेवासी से भवानीपुरा-शक्तपुर तक सड़क निर्माण	PWD2627WLOB04640
2	Sikar	सुदृढ़ीकरण एवं चौड़ाईकरण व नवीन सड़क कार्य रतनपुरा से नांगल भीम श्रीमाधोपुर, श्रीमाधोपुर त्रिलोकपुरा सड़क से कल्याणपुरा, बागरियावास हैलीवाली सड़क से रातली जोहड़ा वाया नयलाई सांवलपुरा तंवरान स्टेण्ड से हाथीदेह अभिनाशी सड़क।	PWD2627WLOB04641
3	Sikar	राजपुरा से बोसाना (पैबा तीन दुकान तक) सड़क निर्माण कार्य।	PWD2627WLOB04642
4	Sikar	माना की ढाणी से कोटड़ी धायलान सड़क निर्माण कार्य वाया केरपुरा-रामपुरा-बरसिंहपुरा-अगलोई गोविन्दपुरा-धीरजपुरा-दादियारामपुरा (माना की ढाणी खटून्दर)	PWD2627WLOB04643
5	Sikar	श्रीमाधोपुर मे विभिन्न मिसिंग लिंक सड़कों के निर्माण कार्य (सिमारला- कोटड़ी- बीरखवाली-स्टेट हाईवे-13 किमी 29 से झाड़ली बामरड़ा सड़क-गढ़कनेट त्रिलोकपुरा सड़क से ढाणी डेरावाली-करडका से प्रीतमपुरी सीमा तक- जुगलपुरा-बुचारा सड़क से रैगर मोहल्ला, दिवराला से आसपुरा सड़क वाया रूणडला की ढाणी एवं झाड़ली हरवान का बास सड़क से ढाणी कान्यावाली)	PWD2627WLOB04644

DIPR/C/10529/2026

(Anupam Gupta)
Additional Chief Engineer
PWD Zone-I Jaipur

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.
D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302005
Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax No. 0141-2228065, E-Mail-edepmrmsc-rj@nic.in

Ref. No.: F-8( ) RMSC/EPM/M-4/NIB-933/2025-26/317 Dated :- 18/06/2026

CORRIGENDUM / ADDENDUM

Bid for item:
1. Deep Freezer, Fowler Bed, Stead Bed, Foot Step, Syringe Infusion Pump, Glucostrip & Pulse Oxymeter (Handheld),
2. White Box (Sharp Container), & Transport Trolley (Wheel Barrow) Reserve for MSE, Rajasthan Only

are invited from interested bidders up to Date : 14.07.2026 : 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on Procurement portal website **https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or www.dipronline.org** or **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** or website **http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in.**

UBN : MSC2526GLOB00056

Executive Director (EPM)
Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation

Raj.Samwad/C/26/5341

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306,
Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.

TNPL Unit - II Invites Tender for the following

Tender No.	Description	Due date
82026008	Sale of Recovery Rejects (SRP ESP ASH) from TNPL Unit - II on Annual Rate Contract / "As is where is" basis	07.07.2026
82026009	Sale of Board Economiser Fly Ash from TNPL Unit - II on Three Months Rate Contract / "As is where is" basis	07.07.2026
82026010	Sale of Wood Dust from TNPL Unit - II on Six Months Rate Contract / "As is where is" basis	07.07.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued through NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our website : **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/2113/Tender/2026

TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board
O/o The Chief Engineer, Jalabhavan, #P-4, 10th main, 3rd cross, 3rd floor, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-09, Ph No: 0821- 2545894,
Email: kwbcemys2014@gmail.com.

Short Term Tender Notification

2nd Call Tender for the work of Upgradation of existing 1.50 MLD capacity STP at Kollur under Deposit Contribution of Sri Mookambika Temple, Kollur (including 1 year DLP) (Lumpsum Tender –No variation) is invited vide Indent No. KUWSDB/2026-27/WT/WORK_INDENT508/CALL-2.
For details - https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-Chief Engineer, K.U.W.S. & D Board, Mysuru.

DIPR/DDMYS/362/KSMCA/239/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division,
2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 01
Telephone No. 080-22133370, **Email ID:** eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

Short Term Tender Notification No. 09/2026-27 DATED: 22.06.2026

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, No.1 South, Hoskote and Doddaballapura Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP.

Tender Notification are Published for 05 Works **(Rs. 150.00 to 350.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal.

1.Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM on Dated: 01.07.2026**

2. The opening of tenders through KPP portal on Dated: **02.07.2026 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be Intimate.

For more details contact this office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/1295/Zen/2026-27

Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited
(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001 & ISO 50001 Certified Company)
Regd. Office: P.O.Narmadanagar - 392015, Dist.: Bharuch (Gujarat), India
CIN: L24110GJ1976PLC002903, Website: www.gnfc.in

OPEN TENDER NOTICE

Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC) invites bids for the work of **"Procurement of EPR certificate from Plastic Waste Processors or EPR credit facilitators for fulfilling the EPR obligations of GNFC for FY 2026-27 & FY 2027-28 under Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules 2016 (as amended)". Interested contractors can access the Tender document uploaded on the website:- https://www.gnfc.in.**

E-tender must be submitted by the contractor on GNFC's e-tender portal only. Contractor shall submit required details as mentioned in the tender notice for issue of e-tender.

Due date for submission of bid is 11.07.2026 before 3.30 PM.
Contact details :- E-mail id - dkpatel@gnfc.in, Phone no - 02642-202789

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in
GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office : Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003 Telangana, India CIN : U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)

HOD-HR&ADMIN, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the Procurement of:

1	**Tender Enquiry No. 168/GATP/ADMIN/50007634 dated 22/06/2026** 1) **"Canteen Services required at GVKPGSL Site for 01 Year."** at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt. Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications.

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 22.06.2026 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.
Note : Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

GATP-63/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/12574

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number : 0175-2207649)

Tender Inquiry No. 359/DIT-1150 dated 19.06.2026

Dy. Chief Engineer/IT(O&S) Organization (under O/o Chief Engineer/IT), PSPCL, Room no. 402, 4th floor, 7-Storey Building, The Mall, Patiala invites E- Tender **Implementation of Network Analysis Solution (NAS) with Training & Facility Management Services (FMS).** For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 29.06.2026, 09:00 AM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and Addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.**

C672/26, DPR/Pb.: 1079/12/2026-27/12579

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No: DGM-1/BSWML/PR/482/2026-27 Date: 22.06.2026

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

This is to inform the general public and all concerned that above referred Tender Notification No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/10/2026- 27, issued by Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML on 05.06.2026 has been cancelled due to technical reasons.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML.

DIPR/CP/1299/Shirdi Sai/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER SURVEY SETTLEMENT & LAND RECORDS DEPARTMENT
K.R.Circle, Bangalore-560001, Ph: 080-22212408.

No: SSLR:E- 2129534/2026-27 Date: 20.06.2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Inviting tender for Selection of agency for providing GIS consultancy services to SSLR Department –Reg.

The Survey, Settlement & Land Records Department, Government of Karnataka, is implementing various GIS and geospatial initiatives across the State. In this regard, Request for Proposal (RFP) is invited from eligible and interested agencies for providing GIS Consultancy Services to the Department.

E-Tender is invited from qualified agencies in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed in the Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP is available in e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **20.06.2026.** Interested and required firms may register with the Centre for E-Governance, Govt. of Karnataka to participate in the said bidding process. Last date of submission of proposals: **21.07.2026.**

Contact Person :
K. Jayaprakash BE, KGS
Additional Director,
Survey Settlement & Land Records Department ,
Bangalore – 560001. Ph: 080-22214715

Sd/- K. Jayaprakash
Additional Director, Survey Settlement & Land Records Department
K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001

DIPR/CP/1294/Shirdi Sai/2026-27

PUBLIC NOTICE
Expression of Interest (EOI)
for Establishment and Operation of Computer Laboratories Cum Testing Centre in

Government Degree Colleges across Uttarakhand Under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Mode

EOI Ref. No.: 2301 **Date: 20-06-2026**

The Department of Higher Education (DoHE), Government of Uttarakhand, hereby invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from eligible private organisations, companies, Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs), Non-Governmental Organisations, and consortia registered in India, for the establishment and operation of Computer Laboratories Cum Testing Centre in Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) across the State of Uttarakhand on a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) basis.

Key Details	
Initiative	Establishment & Operation of Computer Labs Cum Testing Centre in Government Degree Colleges, Uttarakhand through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP)
Who May Apply	Companies, LLPs, NGOs / Section 8 Companies, IT Training Institutes, Edtech Companies, Consortia
EOI Reference No.	2301
Date of Issue	20-06-2026
Last Date for Submission	01-07-2026 11:00 AM
EOI Document Available at	The complete EOI document may be downloaded from https://he.uk.gov.in/

निदेशक
उच्च शिक्षा उत्तराखण्ड
हल्द्वानी (नैनीताल)

14001/69/2627

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION - 2026 (OJEE - 2026)
PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING OJEE WEB COUNSELLING FOR 2026-27

No: OJEE/282 **Date: 22.06.2026**

This is for the information of all concerned that OJEE Web-Based Counselling Process for **Lateral Entry courses for B.Tech, For Working Professionals and Integrated MBA,** are going to start from **24th June, 2026, 5:00PM.**

Counselling for MBA, MCA, M.Sc Comp. Sc., M.Arch, M.Plan and all **M.Tech Programmes** are going to start from **25th June, 2026, 5:00PM**.

Interested candidates having valid OJEE 2026 Rank, Valid CAT/MAT/ XAT/ ATMA/NIMCET/ GATE Score/Rank are advised to visit OJEE websites (**www.ojee.nic.in/www.odishajee.com**) and see the detail Tentative Counselling Schedule for all abovementioned Programmes/ courses.

They are further advised to carefully go through the documents, **"Counselling Brochure" and "Step-by-Step Procedure"**, available in the website to get detailed information about the entire counselling process and eligibility criteria.

All working professional candidates having valid OJEE rank and eligibility as per AICTE Guidelines shall participate in this counselling process. There will be no separate counselling for Working Professionals.

Sd/-
Chairman, OJEE
ODISHA

OIPR-14001/14020/1/26-27/0003

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, MARKET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
FIRST FLOOR, 'E' ROAD, KOYAMBEDU, CHENNAI - 600 107

Date : 22.06.2026

E - TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited by the Chief Administrative Officer, Market Management Committee, KWMC, Koyambedu, Chennai – 600 107 under Two Cover System for the work of "Day to day collection from shops and cleaning the common areas (i.e., shopping streets, truck bays, service streets, internal & external Roads) in Flower, Fruit, Vegetable and Food Grain Market and transportation of solid waste to the Designated Processing Facility / Transfer Station and Depositing at Land fill area of Greater Chennai Corporation.".

Tender Notice No.	**03/2026-27, date 22.06.2026**
Last date & Time of receipt of E-tenders	**23.07.2026 upto 3.00 PM**
Downloading the tender document by free of cost	**24.06.2026 to 23.07.2026 upto 3.00 PM**
For further details visit website	**http://tntenders.gov.in**

Chief Administrative Officer
MMC, KWMC,
Chennai - 600 107.

DIPR/ 2118/TENDER/2026

32001/429/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, SOUTHERN INVESTIGATION CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
E-mail id-wrsesinvbam@rediffmail.com
e-Procurement Notice No. ACESICB-01/2026-27
Bid Identification No. ACESICB-01(01)/2026-27 to ACESICB-01(02)/2026-27
No. 784 Date: 12.06.2026

Bid documents consisting of work, estimated amount put to tender, cost of tender paper, EMD, time of completion, class of contractor, the set of terms & conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in e-procurement portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** complete online process only.

1.	Nature of Works	:	Forest Diversion Proposal (FDP) & Obtaining Stage I & II clearance from MoEF & CC,GoI for forest land proposed for diversion.
2.	Nos. of works	:	02(Two)
3.	Bid Identification No.	:	ACESICB-01(01)/2026-27 to ACESICB-01(02)/2026-27
4.	Estimated Cost	:	Rs. 218.55 Lakhs to 301.06 Lakhs
5.	Earnest Money Deposit	:	Referred to DTCN
6.	Cost of Tender Paper	:	Referred to DTCN
7.	Period of Completion	:	Referred to DTCN
8.	Date and Time of availability of Bid Document in the Portal	:	Dt:24.06.2026 at 11.30 AM to Dt: 09.07.2026 up to 17.00 PM.
9.	Last Date/Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	:	Dt: 09.07.2026 up to 17.00 PM.
10.	Date of Bid opening	:	Dt: 10.07.2026 at 11.00 AM.
11.	Clarification seeking date	:	Dt: 24.06.2026 at 11.30 AM to Dt: 07.07.2026 up to 17.00 PM.
12.	Date of Lottery (if required)	:	Will be intimated later on.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **https://tendersodisha.gov.in.** Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in said website.

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer,
Southern Investigation Circle, Berhampur.

OIPR-32001/32571/1/26-27/0001

11001/142/2627

DHARANIDHAR UNIVERSITY, KEONJHAR-758001
No. 2229 /DDUK/ESTT. /2026 Date : 19.06.2026

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible candidates as per UGC eligibility criteria (UGC Notification 18th July 2018 and subsequent amendments) to fill up various faculty positions in the Department of Anthropology (Arts), B.Ed., Botany, Chemistry, Commerce, Computer Science, Economics, Education, English, Geology, History, Material Science, Mathematics, Odia, Philosophy, Political Science, Physics, Sanskrit, Sociology and Zoology. Please refer website **https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/** for vacancy details notification wise.

The filled-in application should be submitted Online in the HIMS portal: **https://himsrecruitment.odisha.gov.in/** which will be available from **22.06.2026** onwards. Candidates are required to complete the application in all respects and upload all necessary supporting documents on or before **27.07.2026**.

In addition, a hardcopy of downloaded application submitted online in HIMS portal along with all relevant documents must be sent only via **Speed post/ Registered post to the Registrar, Dharanidhar University, Keonjhar, District- Keonjhar, Odisha, PIN-758001 in a A4 size envelope** superscribed. Applications for the post of...... so as to reach on before **07.08.2026 by 05:30 p.m.** Applications received after due time and date will not be entertained under any circumstances.

Candidates are advised to visit **https://dduniversity.ac.in** regularly for further updates till completion of recruitment process.

By Order of the Vice-Chancellor
Sd/- **Registrar**
Dharanidhar University, Keonjhar

OIPR-11001/11126/1/26-27/0003

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website: www.kiadb.in

No.IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-18/1733/2026-27 **Date:22-06-2026**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the work: Formation of Industrial Layout including construction of Roads, RCC Side drain, Cross Drainages, Retaining wall & HDPE Dual Water Supply pipe line at Sector-1 in Dobaspet Industrial Area, 7th Phase, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

- Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **09-07-2026** upto **4:00** pm.

Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Engineer-In-Chief, KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/1300/CCL/2026-27

GOAL RUSH
11 Jun 2026 – 19 Jul 2026
TIMES SPORT | THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026

"PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND FOOTBALL RATE MIKEL INCREDIBLY HIGHLY; I WANT TO CHAMPION MIKEL BECAUSE HE IS A PLAYER CAPABLE OF MAKING HISTORY FOR SPANISH FOOTBALL."

—LUIS DE LA FUENTE ON **MIKEL OYARZABAL,** WHO SCORED TWO AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA

IRAN'S KEEPER OF FAITH

Beiranvand hero as Iran salvage a 0-0 draw with 10-man Belgium, keep hopes alive

▶ Continued from P1

Who says sports and politics shouldn't mix. Their alienation at this World Cup and the Beiranvand-led defiance has endeared the Iranian team to the world — co-hosts Mexico have adopted the west Asians as "our second team." Camus would allow himself a sardonic smile.

But Beiranvand is not the only one. As Belgian opposite number, Thibaut Courtois watched forlornly from the other end, the loneliest position in football was being joined by other lonely men. Vozinha, of Cabo Verde fame, helped the tiny west African archipelago's dream run by making five saves to shut out Uruguay. A day earlier, Curacao's Eloy Room was writing himself into the record books with 16 saves against Ecuador to win the least populated World Cup country a cherished point. Then, if nothing, there's always Manuel Neuer for Germany. His 21st appearance against Ivory Coast made him the most-capped goalkeeper in World Cup history.

But somewhere, the round belonged to Alireza Beiranvand, and Iran. At 6 ft 5 in, the 33-year-old stands like a wall in front of the net, using his long reach and big bucket-like hands to good effect. Beiranvand orchestrated at least seven saves, the shot-stopper giving Iran a realistic opportunity of progressing to the next round. Because, just when it seemed inevitable that Belgian fullback Maxim De Cuyper would score with an open net beckoning inside the six-yard box, Beiranvand produced that moment of magic.

Having thrown himself to the left to scuttle Kevin De Bruyne's low cross, the goalkeeper was stranded in a prone position. From a seemingly impossible situation, Beiranvand stuck out his left hand to deny what looked like a certain goal.

The manner in which Beiranvand scuttled De Cuyper's shot provides a snapshot of his remarkable journey to become one of Iran's most popular sporting icons.

Beiranvand hails from Lorestan in western Iran and was shaped by abject poverty. In the 2018 World Cup, he famously denied Cristiano Ronaldo a goal off a penalty, and was later instrumental in Iran's 1-0 win over Morocco.

Playing dalparan fortified his upper torso to such an extent that he is now a Guinness World Record holder for the longest throw in a football field, when he hurled the ball to 200.14 feet against South Korea in 2016.

AP

THE SENTINEL: Iran goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand kept Belgium at bay on Sunday. Iran coach Amir Ghalenoei said, **"Alireza is one of the greatest goalkeepers in the history of Iranian football"**

IRAN	0
BELGIUM	0
Red card: Ngoy 66	

Alireza Beiranvand (Iran)

7 saves

Player of the Match

- Denied Belgium repeatedly, including a spectacular point-blank stop from Maxim De Cuyper
- Preserved a crucial clean sheet for Iran

7/7 shots on target saved vs Belgium

- Estimated 1.69 x GOT prevented

7 saves from inside the box

Thibaut Courtois (Belgium)

3 saves and a clean sheet

HANDS OF GOD

Goalkeepers are continuing to draw attention at the FIFA World Cup with their heroics. If it was Vozinha in the first round for debutants Cabo Verde against Spain, **TOI** looks at other experienced keepers who are making heads turn in North America...

Alireza Beiranvand (Iran): Alireza Beiranvand's lunging save just before the hour mark against Belgium is already being ranked among the best saves in this year's World Cup. The keeper dived to his right and then put out a strong left to keep Belgium at bay in the second half. View it from whichever angle, and you could be rubbing your eyes in disbelief, just like Portugal did when he stopped Cristiano Ronaldo's penalty in 2018.

Eloy Room (Curacao): Ecuador had 27 shots in their second-round clash against Curacao but none of them found it past Eloy Room, a 37-year-old goalkeeper who plays for Miami FC, a second-tier club in the United States. Room's efforts, which included 16 saves, can easily be ranked among the most heroic performances in the history of the competition, winning the country with the smallest population a cherished point on debut.

Manuel Neuer (Germany): In a tournament where goalkeepers are increasingly turning into cult heroes, Neuer is the been-there done-that man. The 40-year-old was not even supposed to be here, but after doing a retirement u-turn and taking up the numero uno position for Germany, he is into his fifth successive World Cup. His 21st appearance against Ivory Coast means he is now the most-capped goalkeeper in World Cup history.

—Marcus Mergulhao

Iran leave note of thanks

Inglewood: Iran left a message in their SoFi Stadium locker room on Sunday thanking Los Angeles for its hospitality and saying they are leaving with dignity and "may peace, respect and friendship prevail among all nations."

ON MOUNT 17

Reuters

RECORDS ARE FOR BREAKING: Lionel Messi celebrates with Enzo Fernandez after scoring Argentina's first goal against Austria at the Dallas Stadium on Monday. The Argentina captain becomes the all-time leading scorer in men's World Cup history eclipsing Germany's striker Miroslav Klose

GERMANY DEFENDER SCHLOTTERBECK OUT OF WORLD CUP WITH ANKLE INJURY

Boston: Germany central defender **Nico Schlotterbeck** will miss the rest of the World Cup and will be sidelined for several months after picking up an ankle ligament injury in their 2-1 Group E victory over Ivory Coast on Saturday, the team said on Monday. Schlotterbeck, a starting centre-back, was injured early in the game and was replaced at halftime by Antonio Ruediger. A scan on Sunday revealed the player had torn a ligament in his left ankle.

"Schlotterbeck suffered an injury to the medial collateral ligament in his left ankle ... and will be out for several months. The defender of German runners-up Borussia Dortmund will, for the time being, remain with the team in the USA," the team said in a statement.

Coach Julian Nagelsmann can no longer call up a player to replace him, with the tournament already under way.

"Schlotti will be greatly missed on the pitch as an outstanding defender, especially his excellent build-up play," Nagelsmann said. AFP

CABO'S DREAM CONTINUES

DEBUTANTS GET 1ST WORLD CUP GOAL, HOLD URUGUAY TO A 2-2 DRAW

AFP

SHALL WE DANCE? Cabo Verde's Kevin Pina (No. 6) celebrates after scoring against Uruguay

URUGUAY	2
Araujo 44, Canobbio 45+6	
CABO VERDE	2
Pina 21, Varela 61	

Miami Gardens: Cabo Verde's magical start to their first World Cup isn't over. It might just be getting started.

The tiny island nation that stunned tournament favourites Spain last week did it again against Uruguay — a two-time World Cup champion — on Sunday, coming from behind for a 2-2 draw.

Kevin Pina scored on a free kick for Cape Verde's first-ever goal in the World Cup, and Helio Varela scored the equalizer for what has become one of the most surprising teams of the expanded 48-team tournament. They have a legitimate chance of getting into the knockout stage.

"This is something we owe to other smaller national teams — teams that struggled to qualify for a world tournament," Cabo Verde coach Pedro Leitao Brito said through an interpreter.

Cabo Verde, who have two points in Group H along with Uruguay, face Saudi Arabia in their final group match.

Even as a large number of fans at Miami Stadium chanted for Uruguay throughout Sunday's match, Cabo Verdean players seemed undaunted.

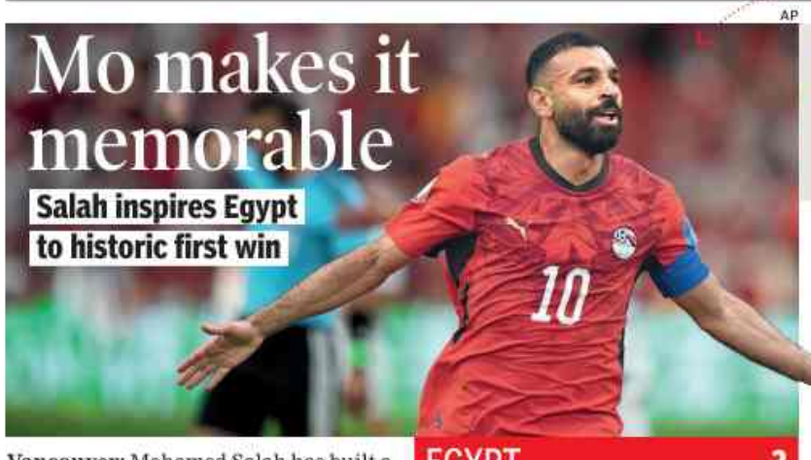
"Once you're on the pitch, a lot of things become equal," Brito said.

"There's no doubt we deserved to win the match with Saudi Arabia and also the match today as well. We should have won it. Even with the goals that we conceded, we should have won still."
—Marcelo Bielsa | URUGUAY COACH

Cape Verdean fans who watched their squad pull off one of the stunners of the tournament last week by holding Spain goalless continued their celebrations when Pina split Uruguay's wall and blasted a strike past diving goalie Fernando Muslera for a 1-0 lead. Maxi Araujo and Agustin Canobbio scored late first-half goals to put Uruguay ahead. But Varela, minutes after coming into the game in the second half, took advantage of a bad pass by Mathias Olivera and caught Muslera way off his line for a tying empty-net goal and his first international score.

"I had dreamed of this," Varela said in a quote distributed by FIFA, "but I never imagined it would happen this way. Scoring my first goal for the national team on my World Cup debut is incredible. I have no words." AP

AP



Mo makes it memorable

Salah inspires Egypt to historic first win

EGYPT	3
Ziko 58, Salah 67, Trezeguet 82	
NEW ZEALAND	1
Surman 15	

3 It was **Mohamed Salah's** third World Cup goal after he netted two at the 2018 tournament in Russia. The three goals make the 34-year-old Salah the top scorer for the Pharaohs.

Vancouver: Mohamed Salah has built a career on rewriting the record books and the Egypt captain did so again on Sunday, scoring and setting up another goal as his side fought back to beat New Zealand 3-1 in Vancouver for a historic first World Cup victory. The result marked a significant step in reshaping Egypt's modest World Cup history, which had previously been defined by first-round exits in 1934, 1990 and 2018 — a stark contrast to the nation's record seven Africa Cup of Nations titles.

Salah scored his 68th goal in international play, a total now just one goal shy of current Egypt coach Hossam Hassan's career record for the Pharaohs..

Salah played for Liverpool for nine seasons, winning two Premier League titles and becoming the league's leading foreign goal scorer. But he had a dip in form this season and amid tensions, announced his contract with the squad would be ended a year early.

For now, he plays for Egypt with his future plans still uncertain.

While between clubs, Mo Salah has etched his name further into the history books as the captain of the first Egyptian team to win a World Cup match.

"What happened today is history for us as Egyptians," Salah said. "We see a lot of teams win games, but for us as Egyptian, it doesn't happen often, first time in history."

He started slow in the first half, missing wide left on a direct free kick and watching New Zealand take an early lead, but he would not be denied for long. Salah scored on a pass from Mostafa Ziko in the 67th minute. The ball slid underneath a defender and past New Zealand goalkeeper Max Crocombe to give the Pharaohs a 2-1 lead. Salah wasn't done adding to his resume quite yet, getting an assist in the 82nd minute on the Pharaohs' final goal, his second assist of this game.

Egypt coach Hossam Hassan deployed Salah in a central role behind striker Omar Marmoush in a 4-2-3-1 formation, flanked by Emam Ashour and Mostafa Zico. The Egypt coach had expressed his satisfaction with Salah's adaptation to the unfamiliar position before the match, and the forward once more proved influential at BC Place. Egypt next face second-placed Iran in Seattle. AGENCIES

TIME TO ASK APOLLO .AI
NIGHT HUNTERS
Over 80% of malaria transmitting mosquito bites happen at night.
Scan to stay protected
For any Health Query Chat with Ask Apollo .AI
Apollo 24|7

All for Ron? Portugal look for bite

Ronaldo Must Do What Is Expected Of Him As The Target Man

Houston: Portugal had plenty of the ball in their World Cup opener but little bite and Roberto Martinez's side return to Houston on Tuesday needing a sharper attacking display against Uzbekistan after a frustrating 1-1 draw with Democratic Republic of Congo.

The numbers told a familiar cautionary tale. According to Opta, Portugal completed 783 passes against the Africans, fewer only than Spain's 800, and topped the possession chart with 75%. Yet all that control produced seven shots and only one on target — Joao Neves's sixth-minute header.

For a team carrying high expectations around Cristiano Ronaldo and an array of attacking options, the struggle came not in circulation of the ball but in the final third, where creativity, decision-making and finishing deserted them.

Portugal's shot count was among the lowest of the opening round, with only five of the 48 teams managing fewer, while Spain, despite being held 0-0 by Cape Verde, attempted 27 shots.

Martinez will hope for a more ruthless display against an Uzbekistan side beaten 3-1 by Colombia in their first-ever World Cup match, a debut marked by nerves and caution.

Uzbekistan coach Fabio Cannavaro said the occasion weighed heavily on his players. "I told them they were too nervous. That's why, in the end, they focused so much on defending," he said.

The Italian, winner of the 2006 Ballon d'Or, believes the pressure of their World Cup bow has now passed

Cristiano Ronaldo, who played the full match in the opener and came in for criticism, remains central to Portugal's story at 41. "Cristiano is an example because of his career, because of the hunger he still has at his age," winger Francisco Conceicao said. "For us, he's a role model." For Portugal, though, inspiration alone will not be enough. REUTERS

Panama and Croatia face pivotal clash

Toronto: Panama and Croatia meet in a pivotal World Cup clash at Toronto Stadium on Tuesday that neither side can really afford to lose with qualification for the knockout rounds potentially on the line, depending on the result of the day's other Group L fixture.

Panama, who lost their opening game to Ghana, are still searching for their first-ever win at a World Cup.

Croatia lost 4-2 to England at Dallas Stadium, a result that coach Zlatko Dalic said left his side with no room for error. "It's very important for us to be at the right level after this defeat," said Dalic. "We do not have the right to any more mistakes."

Luka Modric, who is is widely regarded as the nation's greatest-ever player, will also do all he can to help boost their chances of advancing.

Group L
CROATIA VS PANAMA
4:30 am (Wednesday) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

If Croatia lose, they would be knocked out with a Ghana win over England, while Panama would be eliminated from contention for the knockout stage with a loss and an England win over Ghana. REUTERS

Semenyo relishes England challenge

Born A Stone's Throw From Stamford Bridge, It Has Always Been Ghana For Man City Star

Foxborough: Antoine Semenyo knows better than most what to expect from England at the World Cup, as the Ghana forward seeks to lead the Black Stars to a surprise win over the country of his birth. he Manchester City winger could have a key role to play in Boston on Tuesday as Ghana try to reach the knockout phase for the first time since the team's run to the 2010 quarterfinals.

Ghana needed a stoppage-time winner to edge past Panama in their opener, and Semenyo is uniquely placed to understand the task ahead against England, who boast three City defenders — John Stones, Nico O'Reilly and Marc Guehi — in their squad. "I'm looking forward to the challenge," said Semenyo. "I think everyone in the Ghana team wants to prove a point."

Semenyo is appearing at his second World Cup, this time as an established Premier League goalscorer, but he came close to abandoning his dream of becoming a professional footballer.

Four years can transform a career in football. Limited to just 19 minutes across two substitute appearances at the 2022 World Cup when Ghana's exited in the group stage, he stepped up to the Premier League barely a month later after joining Bournemouth from Bristol City. The 26-year-old has scarcely looked back.

ENGLAND VS GHANA (Group L)

World Cup appearances	Eng: 17 | Ghana: 5
FIFA rank:	Eng: 4 | Ghana: 65
Best Finish	Eng: Champions (1966) Ghana: Quarterfinals

1.30 am (Wednesday) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

Semenyo was born just a stone's throw from Chelsea's Stamford Bridge home in west London. Despite spending his entire life in England, Semenyo said there was no question about representing Ghana. "My mum and dad are Ghana through (and through). They never mentioned anything about England," he told FIFA. "Ghana came in when I was 19, 20, so I was never going to turn it down." AFP

THE LONG & SHORT OF IT

It's a Darwinian jungle out there in sportsland. This certainly applies to skill, grit, stamina and strength, but also to body size and shape. What researchers call the "Law of Morphological Optimization" tells us that athletes who have the right bodies for their sport are the ones who succeed. Is there an optimal height for an elite footballer?

TALLEST PLAYER: Austrian goalkeeper, **Florian Wiegele**
205 cm (6 ft 9 in)

GREAT PLAYERS, ALL SIZES

- XS Diego Maradona — 165 cm
- S Lionel Messi — 170 cm
- M Pele — 173 cm
- L Zinedine Zidane — 185 cm
- XL Erling Haaland — 195 cm

AVERAGE HEIGHT BY POSITION

- **Goalkeepers:** 189 cm | Need reach and wingspan
- **Defenders:** 183 cm | Win aerial duels | Block shots and crosses | Stronger presence in defensive walls
- **Midfielders & Forwards:** 175–180 cm | Prioritise agility, acceleration and balance | **Legendary examples:** Messi and Maradona
- **Why teams converge around 180–185cm** | Need enough height to compete in the air | Need enough mobility to attack and press | Taller players dominate headers and set-pieces | Shorter players offer speed and close control | Teams seek the optimum balance, creating "anthropometric arms race"

SHORTEST PLAYER: Panama's **Cesar Yanis**
160 cm (5 ft 3 in)

Source: The Conversation

FATE IN OUR HANDS: ALGERIA COACH PETKOVIC

Group J
JORDAN VS ALGERIA
8:30 am (Tues) Live on Zee5 and Unite8 Sports

Algeria have their fate in their own hands when they take on Jordan on Monday in a high-stakes World Cup encounter in California, coach **Vladimir Petkovic** said, with both sides facing the possibility of early elimination. The Desert Foxes will exit the tournament if they lose to Jordan, and Austria can take at least a point against Argentina in Monday's Group J match in Texas. "We want to try and make sure that our fate is in our own hands," Petkovic said.

DR SUZANNE HUURMAN: TEAM CURACAO'S TRAILBLAZER

Germany v Curaçao match is the first to feature an all-female medical team. The on-field-of-play medical team of FIFA match doctor Dr Emma Lunan, Curacao doctor **Dr Suzanne Huurman**, Germany team doctor Dr Silja Schwarz and Emergency Medicine doctor Dr Carrie Bakunas, as well as Dr Kerry Peek, the injury spotter, all made history in Houston on June 14.

The good doctor

Nationality: Curacao (born in Brazil) **Role:** Team doctor, Curacao men's national team

World Cup 2026 record: **Only female head** of medical staff among the 48 participating teams.

- Became just the third female team doctor in FIFA World Cup history.

Historic first: Part of the first-ever all-female medical team to work a FIFA World Cup match (Ger vs Cura, 14 June 2026).

Previous experience:

- Worked with youth national teams in the Netherlands
- Experience with clubs including Real Madrid, PSV Eindhoven and Go Ahead Eagles.

WC 2026 gender split: Among the 48 national teams, the medical leadership is 47 men and 1 woman — Dr Huurman.

"It's so normal to be one of the few women in the room." — Dr. Suzanne Huurman on working in elite football medicine

SNAP SHOTS

INDIA FACE PAKISTAN

A win against Olympic champions Netherlands boosting thier confidence, the Indian men's hockey team would look to carry forward the momentum when they take on Pakistan in the opening match of the London leg of the FIH Pro League on Tuesday.

Vondrousova handed ban: Former Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova has been handed a four-year suspension for refusing an anti-doping test in Dec, the International Tennis Integrity Agency said.

Serena given Wimbledon wildcard: Serena Williams, who retired in 2022, has been awarded a wildcard for the Wimbledon starting in a week. A social media post by the official Wimbledon Championships said: "This is not a drill" with a picture of Williams standing on a grass court captioned "Serena returns".

Stokes & Atkinson cleared: Ben Stokes and Gus Atkinson will face no further action over the nightclub incident that prompted their exile from missing last week's second Test against New Zealand.

Uncapped Coles to face India: England have named uncapped all-rounder James Coles in their squad for next month's T20 series against India. **Team:** Harry Brook (capt), Rehan Ahmed, Jofra Archer, Sonny Baker, Tom Banton, Jacob Bethell, Jos Buttler, James Coles, Jordan Cox, Sam Curran, Liam Dawson, Will Jacks, Saqib Mahmood, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Josh Tongue, Luke Wood

Three Indians finish in top-5: Indian women golfers enjoyed one of their strongest weeks on the Ladies European Tour as Diksha Dagar, Avani Prashanth and Pranavi Urs finished inside the top-five at the Dutch Ladies Open in Eemnes, The Netherlands. Diksha and Avani shared the third place at eight-under 208 at the par 72 course, while Pranavi finished tied fifth at seven-under.

Aditi makes T-24 finish: Aditi Ashok finished T-24 at the Meijer LPGA Classic following a final round of one-under 71 in Belmont (US). The Indian finished the week with a score eight-under par with rounds of 69-69-71-71.

AVBC clinch thriller: AVBC claimed a one-point win against Vivek's SC in the State Youth (U-16) Basketball Championship at the MNK Rao Park basketball courts.

Results: Boys: PPC 74 (Jitesh 15, Aditya 13) bt Devanga Union 21 (Shreyas 8) HT: 36-8; HBR BC 57 (Samridh 16, Ritham 11) bt JSC 24 (Mayur 13) HT: 39-16; MNK Rao Park BC 41 (Kishore 13) bt Cincinatics BC 17 HT: 23-11; Beagles BC 69 (Raghav 12) bt CJC 19 HT: 32-10; Hebbal BC 54 (Anthony 10) bt Mounts BC 27 (Kavish 7) HT: 26-10; Vimanapura SC 72 (Shreyash 20, Daniel 17) bt Hoop-7 BC 58 (Raghav 18, Sai Tarun 15, Vatsal 13) HT: 35-26; Bangalore Sporting 34 (Sai Kiran 14) bt Orion's SC 26 (Abhaya 14) HT: 22-11; Young Orion's SC 62 (Aakash 15, Avyam 11) bt Bharath SU 22 (Chiranjeevi 10) HT: 42-18; S Blues 41 (Nevan 16) bt DRDO 20 (Macquin 12) HT: 21-12; YMMA 31 (Avyan J 14) bt Koramangala SC 26 HT: 17-10; AVBC 59 (Ayaan 24, Anish 11) bt Vivek's SC 58 (Shubh 20, Srinivas 14) HT: 26-26.

'Middle-order not much of a concern'

Manuja.Veerappa
@timesofindia.com

South Africa's six-wicket win could reshape India's Women's T20 World Cup campaign. India must reflect on the loss, bounce back and win their remaining two Group I matches. Marizanne Kapp, grassed thrice, proved the match-winner and exposed flaws in India's game plan.

For India to go deeper in the tournament, batters Yastika Bhatia, skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues will have to raise their performances. While openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma have given India a good start, their teammates with proven abilities have failed to fire. Yastika has scored 18 runs in two matches. Jemimah's scores of 12, 19, and 1 hardly reflect her talent or her form in English conditions. Harmanpreet, with 72 runs from three innings, will have to convert her starts and up her strike rate as well.

AFP
LEAN PATCH: Jemimah

However, India's head coach, Amol Muzumdar, didn't think the middle-order stumbling was a worrying factor. "It's T20 cricket. There will be stages in T20 cricket when, because of the format's high-risk nature, lots of wickets will fall. We have been playing a fearless brand of cricket, which we have emphasised. So I guess there will be some days when we will have wickets falling in clusters. But that's the nature of the game. It's not much of a concern."

For a safe passage into the semifinals, India will have to win their next two matches against Bangladesh and Australia. A slip-up will mean their fortunes will hinge on the results of other teams, South Africa in particular.

"We got a couple of chances in between but couldn't take those chances. We have two matches, and this is the time to stay positive. Hopefully, we come up better in the next games," said Harmanpreet at the post-match presentation.

Muzumdar was confident his team would bounce back.

"We still have two more games to look forward to, and there is no doubt in my mind that if we play to our potential, we can be on the right side of those two games."

Hardik opts for new programme

Arani.Basu@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In a bid to keep the BCCI's centrally contracted players in prime cricketing shape, the Centre of Excellence (CoE) has launched a programme called the Performance Block. TOI understands that the initiative allows international players to sharpen their cricketing skills at any point during the year, while also becoming an integral part of a player's return-to-play process after injury.

COE INITIATIVE

Sources told TOI that Hardik Pandya has opted for the Performance Block instead of pushing to get fit for the ODI series in England. Harshit Rana is the first player to have been declared fully fit under this programme.

"The CoE was largely a rehab centre for international cricketers. Cricket-specific programmes were mostly restricted to age-group and zonal camps. Now, India players can come in at any time and undergo highly specialised sessions to work on minute aspects of their game. There will be a dedicated coaching staff working with the players. Also, under this programme, an injured player can only be cleared fit to play for India if he is playing to his potential," a BCCI source told TOI.

Earlier, an injured player would be cleared clinically after undergoing a few match-simulation sessions. Often, the CoE did not have a quality pool of players available for such simulations.

Hardik is now the first high-profile cricketer to go through the new programme. "Hardik is very clear in his mind that he won't take the field for India unless he is at the top of his game — both physically and cricket-wise. He doesn't want to push himself and jeopardise his body with the ODI World Cup only 16 months away. He contacted the CoE and joined the Performance Block. He wants to work on specific cricketing skills while also attaining peak fitness," the source said.

Case managers to oversee 16-week plan

Dubai: To ensure a safe and sustainable return to cricket for women players post-pregnancy, the ICC on Monday announced guidelines to cover their early recovery after birth, structured training, and conditioning during a 16-week window before the comeback. The 'Return to Play Post-Pregnancy Guidelines' for female cricketers, outline a six 'R's framework: Ready, Review, Restore, Recondition, Return and Refine.

POSTPARTUM GUIDELINES

"The approach covers early recovery after birth, medical and wellbeing reviews, gradual return to structured training, cricket-specific conditioning, return to play and ongoing monitoring once a player is back in the cricket environment," the ICC stated in a press release. The document speaks about having a dedicated 'Case manager' for the players returning to competitive cricket post pregnancy. The Case officer should be either a doctor or a physiotherapist. The early review would include comprise focus on psychological support in the players' adjustment to life as a mother, followed by graded reintroduction of strength-based training. After eight weeks of these assessments, the player will return to running in collaboration with a doctor and physio.

A thorough monitoring of any symptoms including musculoskeletal and pelvic floor issues is done before the player is given the go ahead to return to action. "No player should have to choose between motherhood and representing her country at the highest level. The ICC's Return to Play Post-Pregnancy Guidelines are an important step in creating a more supportive and informed environment across the game," ICC Chairman Jay Shah said. PTI

Nikin powers M'luru

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: Opener **Nikin Jose** struck a blistering century—the first of this edition of the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20— as defending champions Coastal Kings Mangaluru cruised to an eight-wicket victory over Gulbarga Mystics here on Monday.

The 25-year-old brought up his 100 with consecutive sixes off 47 deliveries. Nikin's knock was studded with seven fours and eight sixes. Chasing 178, Manguluru overhauled the target with 21 balls to spare.

MAHARAJA TROPHY

Mangaluru lost opener Venkatesh early, but Nikin and skipper Karun Nair (56) then shared a match-winning 52-ball 96-run stand.

Earlier in the first match of the day, Hubli Tigers rode on a fine all-round effort to register a seven-wicket victory against Mysore Warriors. After restricting Mysore for 161, Hubli chased down the target in 17.3 overs.

Opting to bowl, most of Hubli's bowlers were on point. Left-arm spinner Hardik Raj and medium pacer LR Kumar collected three wickets each, while Vikas Gowda accounted for two wickets.

In reply, Hubli lost a couple of early wickets, but Mohammed Taha (57) and skipper Aneeshwar Gautam (60 n.o) saw their team through.

Brief scores: Mysore Warriors: 161 in 19.2 overs (Ritesh Bhatkal 46, SU Karthik 35, KP Karthikeya 27; Hardik Raj 3-25, LR Kumar 3-14) lost to **Hubli Tigers: 162/3 in 17.3 overs** (Aneeshwar Gautam 60 n.o, Mohammad Taha 57; Madhav Bajaj 2-27).

US Open pushed us

Sahith Theegala

The US Open and Shinnecock Hills did what they do best — push the best golfers in the world to their limits. It was brutal, and exactly what you expect from a US Open. I love this kind of unpredictable, nerve-wracking golf that Majors, and especially the US Open, produce.

First of all, congratulations to Wyndham Clark for withstanding the pressure of taking a six-shot lead into the final round and then surviving a pairing with world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler, who was celebrating his 30th birthday on Father's Day and had the New York crowd behind him as he chased a career Grand Slam. Wyndham handled it all with pure class, both on and off the course. He is a true champion.

As for Aaron Rai, he showed why he is a Major champion. Despite opening the week with a 74, he rallied to finish tied for 11th. He handled Shinnecock better than most by simply hitting fairways and refusing to compound mistakes. Akshay Bhatia, meanwhile, playing alongside Rory McIlroy, ground out a final-round 70 to finish tied for 17th. That meant three players of Indian origin finished inside the top 20. Historic indeed, and I hope we were able to give fans back in India something to cheer about.

(Sahith Theegala is a brand ambassador for Hero MotoCorp and competed at the US Open)

Hero

ARJAN SINGH MEMORIAL FROM TODAY

Bengaluru: Sixteen teams from across the country will vie for top honours at the Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh memorial hockey tournament starting here on Tuesday. The tournament, to be held at the Amit Singh Bakshi Hockey Stadium, Air Force Station Jalahalli, will be under the aegis of the Air Force Sports Control Board. The tournament will be held on a league-cum-knock out basis.

Speaking at a press conference, Air Marshal S Sivakumar said the primary aim of the tournament is to provide quality competition to promising players. The winning team will take home a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh, while the runners-up will receive Rs 8 lakh. The man of the match in each game will be awarded Rs 25,000, while the player of the tournament will receive Rs 50,000. TNN

Teams: Pool A: IAF, Navy, GST, and SCB; **Pool B:** Army, Naval TATA Hockey Academy, Jamshedpur, CISF, Rail Wheel Factory; **Pool C:** Railways, Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, UP Police, Punjab & Sind Bank; **Pool D**: BPCL, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and CAG. **— Saanya Sharma**

Rovers enter quarters

Rovers FC entered the quarterfinals of the BDFA 'C' Division football league championship in Bengaluru on Monday.

Results: Prequarters: Rovers FC 0 (5) bt Konkan FC 0 (4) via tie-breaker; **Gp 10**: Bangalore Mars FC 3 (Chetan S 6, Rishanth 27, Prashanth V 51) bt Jupiter FC 1 (Chinnappa Jayaseelan 22); Vinayaka FC 4 (Mohammed Tayeeb Sharif 31, Sandeep SN 39, CS Arjun 41, Pavan Prasad R 51) bt Bangalore Boys FC 1 (Mohammad Vasim Ansari 14); **Gp 12**: Excelsiors FC 2 (Rupam Samadder 16, Mohan Kumar B 35) bt Bagalkunte FC 0; **Gp 9**: Active Union FC 1 (Topu Nada 25-pen) drew with La Masia FC 1 (Velank 42); **Gp 13**: Sunesa FC 2 (Shanmugam 19, Vinod Prem Sagar Korrapti 23) bt Postal Dept FC 1 (Janardhan V 21). TNN

Milestone victory for Chiranth

Bengaluru: **Chiranth Vishwanath** from Bengaluru scripted history, becoming the first Indian to win a race at the iconic Motegi racetrack in Japan recently, as he finished the third round of the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship with a victory and a fourth-place finish in the Asia Championship category. The 18-year-old Chiranth, astride a Apache RR 310, set a hot pace in Race-1 to lead from the start. However, in the fifth of the eight-lap race, he fell to P5 following a contact with another rider. But he recovered and overtook three riders in the last lap to post a fine win, his first in the championship. In Race-2, Chiranth was in P2 until the last lap when he had another contact with a fellow rider, which cost him two spots and he eventually finished fourth. The win and P4 finish helped Chiranth move up to fourth in the championship as he prepares for the next round.

MOTORSPORT

Tanmay finishes second: Bengaluru's Tanmay Kothari finished second in the senior category at the National Series India karting event held in Coimbatore. **Provisional results (B'luru only): Seniors (18 laps):** Tanmay Kothari (Red Rabbit Racers; 13:43.070); **Mini (14 laps):** 2. Eeshan Swaroop (Kartlorew Motorsports; 11:31.326). TNN

This newspaper is published by Manjeet Singh Dhami from Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., Elixir Chancery Building, 1st, 2nd and 4th Floor, 135, Residency Road, Shanthala Nagar, Bengaluru—560025 (Phones: Office: EPABX - 080- 42206000, Editorial: 080- 46787878) on behalf of Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., edited by Neelam Raj and printed by Sekar S at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Ph : 080-22899999). Regd office: Dr. D.N. Road, Mumbai - 400001. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.
REGD. NO. CPMG/KA/GPO-31/2023-05, RNI NO. 45466-65

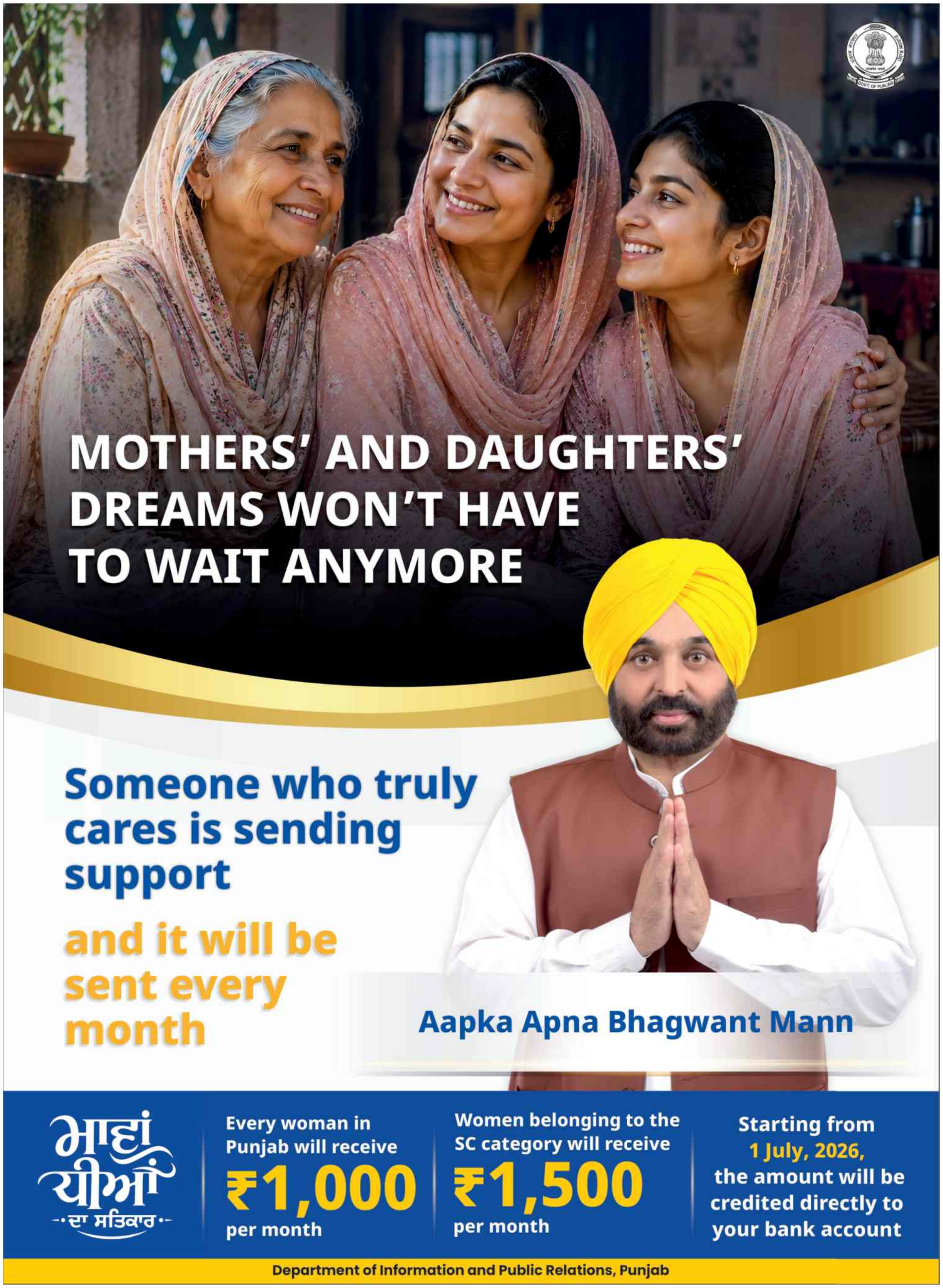
BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO. LTD. | Estd. 1838 | VOL. 43 NO.148 BENGALURU | TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026 | METRO | PAGES 22 | PRICE ₹5

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

By scoring one goal and setting up another, Mohamed Salah has inspired Egypt to their first-ever World Cup win as they came from a goal down to beat New Zealand 3-1, moving top of Group G



TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026

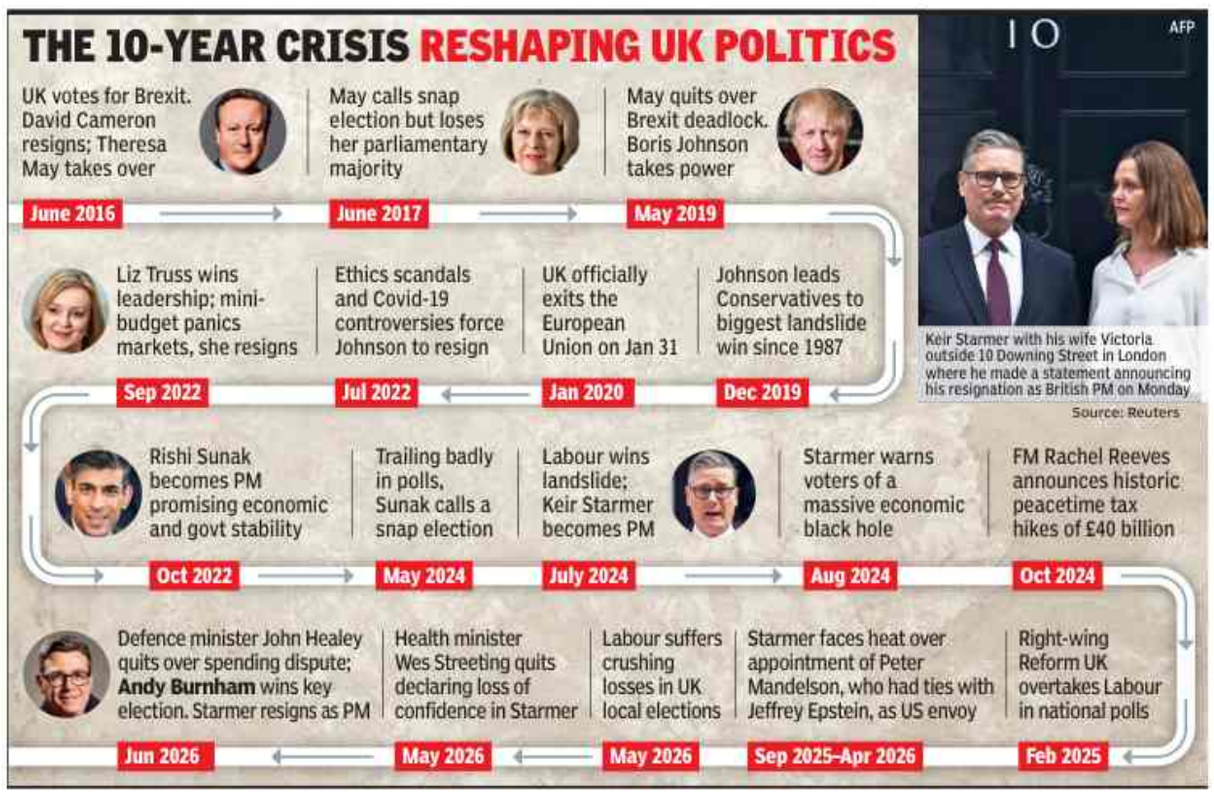
YESTERDAY'S THE PAST, TOMORROW'S THE FUTURE, BUT TODAY IS A GIFT. THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED THE PRESENT — BIL KEANE

ZENDAYA, 29, BRANDS HUSBAND TOM HOLLAND, 30, A 'GRANDPA' AS HE MAKES COMMENT ABOUT 'YOUNG KIDS' IN INTERVIEW

DUA LIPA & CALLUM TURNER SPOTTED LEAVING ROME IN A £200,000 PORSCHE AFTER IDYLLIC ITALIAN WEDDING

'King of the North' heading to No. 10? Andy Burnham likely to be next UK PM

Served As Minister Under Blair, Brown; Made A Mark Post Vital Win In North



Keir Starmer with his wife Victoria outside 10 Downing Street in London where he made a statement announcing his resignation as British PM on Monday

AFP

London: Four years ago Andy Burnham complained he was repeatedly denied a main-stage speaking slot at the Labour Party conference under PM Keir Starmer's leadership, saying it was a sign of disrespect for his then position as Greater Manchester mayor.

There was some sympathy for one of Labour's most popular politicians, but now, as he seeks to become Britain's seventh PM in a decade, Burnham must prove he can occupy that centre stage, win over restless voters and overcome the economic constraints that hamstrung his predecessors. Burnham's pitch is that only he has the political charisma and the vision in Labour to connect with voters to defeat the populist anti-immigration Reform UK party, led by Nigel Farage, which has led in every poll since early last year.

His decisive victory in a contest for a seat in parliament last week, where Reform had recently performed strongly in local elections, has won over many Labour lawmakers.

Burnham "has proven his credentials in putting forward a Labour vision voters can rally around", said Alex Sobel, a Labour member of parliament. His supporters see Burnham — who won the nickname "King of the North" for his defence of the area during the Covid-19 pandemic — as a leader who made his mark at the helm of one of Britain's few regional success stories in recent years.

But his critics portray Burnham as someone who has continually changed his policy positions and has sought to portray himself as a "normal man of the people" rather than the highly educated career politician he is.

It is now likely that Burnham will replace Starmer as PM after the former health minister, Wes Streeting, said he would not oppose him in a leadership contest. Burnham later posed with more than 100 Labour lawmakers in parliament on Monday, but did not speak to waiting journalists. So far, Burnham has only given hints of what his agenda could be if he becomes the next PM. It is his record as Greater Manchester mayor, a job he took in 2017 to escape what he called London-centric politics, that offers the best insight into his possible plans. His battle against then-PM Boris Johnson over the toughest Covid pandemic restrictions in 2020 raised his profile again beyond Manchester. He strongly supports further decentralisation along with a more interventionist state and describes his political beliefs today as "more place first rather than party first". He has long argued that, by shifting power away from London, which dominates Britain's economy, communities can take direct control over the things that shape their own lives, such as utilities and transport.

Burnham was born in Liverpool, where his father worked as a telephone engineer and his mother a receptionist. He won a place to study English at the University of Cambridge and after graduating, took a familiar path to political prominence, first as a researcher and then adviser in parliament.

He first served as a junior minister under former PM Tony Blair, and later culture secretary and health secretary under Gordon Brown. In 2010 and 2015, he ran to become leader of the Labour Party and failed both times. REUTERS

US eases oil sanctions as Iran agrees to N-checks

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Reuters

Before the talks in Switzerland on Sunday, Pak PM Sharif (in brown) greets Iran's FM Araghchi. US veep Vance is seen in extreme right

Washington: US Vice President JD Vance emerged from two days of talks with Iranian leaders in the Swiss Alps over the weekend claiming a "major milestone" of having persuaded Tehran to allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) back into the country, reopening a pathway to international monitoring of its nuclear program. Soon after, the Trump administration lifted oil sanctions on Iran, issuing a 60-day waiver authorising the sale and transport of Iranian crude and petroleum products through Aug, a concession designed to keep talks alive.

In remarks at the end of the initial round of talks, Vance also asserted — while pushing back at criticism the Trump administration has given away the store to Tehran — that if Iranian assets are unfrozen, those funds would be used to buy American agricultural products. "If Iranian assets are ever unfrozen, they are going to make American farmers richer and help feed the Iranian people," Vance said, crediting Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner with the idea. He also said his initial engagement with the Iranians would be followed by technical-level talks during the 60-day ceasefire window to arrive at a final agreement.

For the Trump administration, Vance appeared to have clinched a desperately needed truce to calm growing political disquiet at home ahead of the mid-term elections in Nov, with the vice president's own political future at stake. But for critics, it all sounded suspiciously like the rediscovery of an arrangement that already existed, with experts pointing out that IAEA inspections were part of the Obama-era JCPOA deal before Trump tore it up in 2018.

The body language alone provided enough material for diplomatic lip-readers to stay busy for days. Vance led the American delegation into the meeting room first crowded with Pakistani and Qatari interlocutors. Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi arrived later, briefly conferred with Pakistani officials and departed, amid reports that they declined a joint photo opportunity with the Americans because of President Trump's provocative statements and continued Israeli attacks in Lebanon. Ignored handshakes, threatened walkouts and visibly frosty exchanges hardly suggested the dawn of a grand reconciliation.

After roughly 80 minutes of discussions, Iranian negotiators reportedly suspended talks in protest over Trump's latest social media threats regarding Lebanon before eventually returning to the table after Vance reportedly explained that Trump's remarks were in response to Iranian provocations. At the end of more discussions, Vance was able to claim progress amid scepticism in Washington, where there are many critics sharpening their knives just waiting for the mission to fail.

While Trump and Vance supporters saw an elegant solution in unfrozen Iranian money buying American wheat, corn and soybeans rather than flowing into military rearming that Washington is leery of, policy wonks were less impressed, recalling Vance's own warnings after the Oct 7 attacks, when he argued that "money is fungible" and that financial relief for Tehran in one area could indirectly strengthen the IRGC.

The apparent shift has left some conservatives performing rhetorical gymnastics. Compounding the controversy, the US treasury department on Monday moved with remarkable speed to demonstrate Washington's seriousness, issuing a broad 60-day sanctions waiver authorising the sale and transport of Iranian crude oil and petroleum products through Aug, a significant concession designed to keep negotiations alive.

For Israel and many of its supporters in Washington, the announcement landed with all the subtlety of a bunker-buster. The pro-Israel constituency in U.S is still reeling from the new Trump-Vance formulation that every country in the region has legitimate security concerns and the right to defend itself, and that Iran too has the right to maintain conventional ballistic missile capabilities under a future settlement framework.

The broader picture is that Vance appears to have salvaged something out of talks that repeatedly threatened to collapse under the weight of the MAGA's boss' social media hand grenades. Throughout the negotiations, Trump continued firing at Iran and threatening further mayhem, sending its delegates into fits of indignation. At one point, according to Vance, the Iranians nearly walked out altogether, but he was able to retrieve the situation.

Behind the scenes, two unlikely diplomatic facilitators helped keep the process on life support: Pakistan and Qatar. Both served as mediators, even though both have many critics in the US.

Starmer's almost 2-yr term second-shortest for a Labour PM

▶Continued from P1

I will give my successor my full support," he said, adding he will stay on as caretaker prime minister until a new PM is in place, which will happen before Sept 1 and could be much earlier. Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy' was blasted from a loudspeaker outside the gates by anti-Brexit campaigner Steve Bray, almost drowning out his words and making it seem like a funeral service.

"When I leave the biggest job in the country, I will spend more time on the most important job: being the best husband I can to my fantastic wife Vic," he said, his voice breaking and chin wobbling, "and being the best dad I can be to my beautiful children". He then went to hug Victoria, as staff clapped. It was a rare moment that Starmer managed to connect with the public, something he had been unable to do throughout his time as PM, which caused Labour to sink in the polls and Reform UK to surge.

The markets didn't react as the resignation was expected. Ex-Tory MP Michael Gove had on Sunday described Starmer looking at the lawns at Chequers and seeing "Burnham Wood" marching towards Chequers, a parallel to Birnam Wood coming to Dunsinane, the prophecy that signalled Macbeth's downfall.

The cameras moved to Manchester where Andy Burnham was being mobbed by the press as he was boarding the 11.39am train to London to be sworn in as the new Makerfield MP. Before boarding, he had tweeted he planned to enter the leadership contest. Three minutes later, ex-health secretary Wes Streeting, considered his main leadership challenger, tweeted that he backed Burnham and would not be standing.

Cambridge-educated Burnham, who would become Britain's first Catholic PM, has built an alternative Labour brand in Manchester detached from the shenanigans at Westminster. Starmer, a former lawyer, is often described as stiff, managerial and process-driven, whilst Burnham is seen as more charismatic, relatable and emotionally intelligent.

Throughout his tenure as Labour chief, Keir Starmer criticised the "Tory chaos". But on Monday he became the second-shortest serving Labour PM ever, the first being Ramsay MacDonald who lasted nine months in 1924.

The next UK PM will be the seventh in a decade. "The British people are sick of being let down by an endless merry-go-round of prime ministers while nothing really changes," Ed Davey, Liberal Democrats chief, tweeted. Tory head Kemi Badenoch said: "The reason Keir Starmer resigned is because the former defence secretary said he is not looking after national security. If Andy Burnham doesn't have any answers on national security, we should have a general election."

"Andy Burnham won back a part of the country that only weeks ago had overwhelmingly rejected Labour, which shows if Labour changes we can still win a general election," Streeting said, referring to Labour's disastrous local election results when many seats went to Reform UK. It was those results and the recent scathing resignation letter of former defence secretary John Healey, Starmer's misjudged appointment of Peter Mandelson as US ambassador, the unpopular inheritance tax on farmers, cutting of pensioners' winter fuel allowance, the Chagos deal, scrapping of jury trials and a whole host of other policies and mistakes that led to Starmer's downfall.

IN ITALY, 61 GOVTS IN JUST 63 YEARS

Italy | Famous for its volatile parliamentary system, Italy has seen 61 different govts in the 63 years following WWII

Japan | Experienced the highest churn of leadership, cycling through 19 different PMs between 1990 & 2026

Nepal | Since becoming a republic in 2008, Nepal has seen 15 different govts in 18 years due to its fragile, shifting coalition alliances

People from Pak, Nepal, B'desh among injured

▶Continued from P1

The injured were from several countries, including India, Qatar, Tanzania, Pakistan, Guinea, Nepal, Bangladesh, Kenya and Nigeria, local media reported.

Late Sunday, QatarEnergy said the fire had been brought under control.

The deadly accident comes as hyrdocarbon-rich Gulf nations face challenges in boosting their output following Iranian attacks and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for the export of oil and gas. Kaabi said the status of the Strait and attacks on Gulf nations remained a "geopolitical, military issue" drawing a line between Sunday's explosion which he said was "different". "We have to take it in stride and move on and learn from it," the minister added.

Earlier Qatar's interior ministry described Sunday's incident as an "internal explosion", adding in a later statement that a "technical malfunction" was to blame.

According to QatarEnergy, the Barzan facility could previously provide 1.4 billion standard cubic feet of sales gas per day to local power generation and water desalination plants as well as local industries. In addition, Barzan has the production capacity to supply ethane, condensate, LPG and sulphur for local markets and export.

ExxonMobil holds a 7% share of the Barzan plant, with the Qatari state firm holding the remaining 93%, according to the US oil and gas giant's website.

Russia says 5 killed as Kyiv claims it struck key plant

Reuters

A flat burns after being hit by a Russian drone in the frontline town of Druzhkivka in Ukraine

Moscow: Ukrainian missiles struck Russia's southwestern city of Voronezh on Monday and killed five people, as Kyiv said it had hit a plant making key components for Iskander and other missiles.

"Five people were killed as a result of the missile attack on the city. Several dozen people sought medical attention, but most have already been sent home after receiving medical care," regional governor Alexander Gusev said on Telegram. He said an "industrial facility on the left bank of Voronezh, where a fire broke out, sustained the most significant damage" without naming the facility.

Ukraine's General Staff said Monday his forces had "carried out successful strikes on an enterprise producing components for Russian missiles in the city of Voronezh". It said it "used high-precision, air-launched cruise missiles" to hit "a critical component of the Russian military-industrial complex". AFP

EU to criminalise AI producing child sex abuse content

Brussels: Designers of AI systems that create child sexual abuse images could face jail time under a toughening of EU rules that European countries and lawmakers agreed Monday. Victims will also get more time to bring perpetrators to justice as part of the reform.

Magnus Brunner, the EU's commissioner for internal affairs, described the deal as "an important milestone in strengthening the EU's efforts to combat child sexual abuse". Under the reform, designing or adapting AI systems to produce child sexual abuse material, as well as acquiring, possessing or disseminating such programmes will be punishable by up to two years' jail. AFP

Lebanon ceasefire holds but fears persist

AP

A man looks through the shattered window of a damaged apartment in southern Lebanon on Monday

Beirut/Metula: A ceasefire largely held in Lebanon on Monday as the country experienced the longest lull yet in three months of war between Hezbollah and Israel, even as fear of renewed hostilities kept displaced people from going home.

A senior Lebanese security official said that adherence to the ceasefire had been "almost total" since Saturday evening, though the official said an Israeli tank fired shells towards a village near Tyre and Israeli forces fired sound grenades in two other locations on Monday.

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, however, declared Monday that Israeli forces had been granted "full freedom" to engage any threat encountered in southern Lebanon. "My directive to the IDF is clear: Our fighters in southern Lebanon have full freedom of action to thwart any threat to the residents of the North," he said. REUTERS

Amid Switzerland talks, Iran prez to visit Pak today

Islamabad: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian will arrive in Islamabad on Tuesday to discuss diplomatic engagements as well as regional and international developments of mutual interest with the top Pakistani leadership. President Pezeshkian will meet President Asif Ali Zardari and hold talks with PM Shehbaz Sharif, a statement from the foreign office said. The visit will also provide an opportunity to discuss ongoing engagements after the signing of the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding, it added. PTI

DAILY PLANET

Reuters

People jump over a campfire during the Ivana Kupala holiday celebration, an ancient tradition with roots in pagan times, in Kyiv

Taliban detained Afaid workers over beards: Reports

The Taliban govt's morality police detained about 20 aid workers near the Iran-Afghanistan border because their beards were not long enough, three sources from aid organisations told AFP on Monday. The Taliban authorities in Kabul rule according to a strict interpretation of Islamic law and have said men must grow beards longer than a fist. The staff detained were working on Saturday near the Islam Qala border crossing for organisations that cooperate with the UN, according to internal statements shared by two aid workers on condition of anonymity because of security reasons. The morality police arrested "national male staff members from UN implementing partner organisations at the Islam Qala Reception Center due to trimmed or shaved beards", said one of the internal statements from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Iceland kills first whales since 2023, resuming commercial hunt: Two whales have been killed off the coast of Iceland two days after commercial hunting resumed, ending a two-year hiatus, local media and animal rights activists reported on Monday. Icelandic public broadcaster RUV reported that two fin whales "were killed last night", marking the first catches since 2023. The fin whale is the second largest animal on Earth after the blue whale. Iceland is one of only three countries that still openly permit whaling, alongside Norway and Japan.

Temperatures to exceed 40°C in European heatwave, 3 die in France

Paris/Madrid/London: Three elderly people died as extreme temperatures hit France, and 13 swimmers were reported drowned as they tried to escape a heatwave that swept on across Europe, where authorities issued warnings for the days ahead.

Thousands of schools in France closed or modified timetables on Monday and forecasters in Britain predicted temperatures could smash records for June this week. "We're heading for, at the very least, several days of very, very hot weather. We don't know when temperatures will start falling," French health minister Stephanie Rist said. "Swim only in places that are supervised," French civil safety service spokesperson Jerome Boulanger said after reporting the drownings from Sunday into Monday. Such deaths spiked 58% in France last year as swimmers tried to cool off.

Three elderly people, aged between 80 and 95, died over the weekend in the Bordeaux region as a result of health issues caused by the current heatwave in France, local government official Sophie Brocas told France TV late on Sunday. Weather agency Meteo France said 49 regional administrative areas would be under a red heatwave warning.

AFP

Despite the heat, France went ahead with its street music fest in Bordeaux

An April report by the World Meteorological Organisation found Europe is warming at more than double the global rate.

According to the Reuters Climate Monitor, Europe on Monday was the continent furthest from its historic norm, with temperatures forecast to reach an average 24°Celsius, 4.1°C above what was typical from 1961-1990.

The heatwave affecting large parts of Europe is known as an Omega block because it takes the shape of the Greek letter, with a bulge of hot air in the middle and cooler air either side, said Clair Barnes, a research associate in extreme weather and climate at Imperial College in London.

The Met Office, Britain's national weather forecaster, said on Monday that a four-day heatwave there could push temperatures above 39°C in some places, easily breaking the June record of 35.6 C set in 1957 and 1976.

In Spain, state weather agency Aemet issued a red alert for the Basque region, in the normally cooler north of the country, with the mercury in San Sebastian set to rise to a high of 40°C, more than double the city's historic average for June 22, according to the Reuters Climate Monitor. Italy on Monday issued heatwave red alerts for 12 cities, including Milan, Turin, Venice, Bologna, Florence and Rome. REUTERS